Federation and National Independence

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CARIBBEAN
NEWS
BRAZIL
BRITISH GUIANA
VENEZUELA
PANAMA
TRINIDAD
BARBADOS
ST LUCIA
ANTIGUA
JAMAICA
BAHAMAS
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PLOT TO DESTROY C.L.C.

I.C.F.T.U. PURSUES POLICY OF BREAKING UP NATIONAL MOVENTS!

by **BILLY STRACHAN**

Grantley Adams, MCP (Barbadoes) President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, returning to the West Indies from a Council meeting of the International Confederation of "Free" Trade Unions in Berlin, set off a damp squib to destroy the CLC. Like every damp squib, it has left a nasty smell!

Norman Manley, MHR (Jamaica), fresh from a partial success in destroying the unity of the rank and file of the Peoples National Party, was only too willing to lend a helping hand. After conferring between sessions of a Barbadoes Labour Party Annual Conference, the plan was launched. The sequence was to be, for Adams to act *ultra vires* and high-handedly call a Council meeting, and with a loaded majority push through TWO DECISIONS. (1) dissolve the London Branch, and (2) demand that no affiliate throughout the British Caribbean associate itself with the mighty WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. Congress, as a whole, was not to be consulted, but the vigilant secretary, Richard Hart (Jamaica), was alive to the dangers and stepped in. With a brief circular, attaching copies of all relative correspondence, Hart informed his far-flung flock of the evil that was at large within their midst.

More details of the overall plot that was indirectly hatched in London, 1949, on an international scale, are now being widely read throughout the Caribbean in a CLC LONDON BRANCH publication,

The pamphlet traces the birth of the ICFTU, whose plans were conjured in the financial markets of Washington, Wall Street, and London. Briefly, the facts leading up to this violent but underhand attack on the West Indian people are chronicled thus:—

> "1947: As a result of the world-wide advance, the 1945 victory over Fascism, the colonial people set out to win higher living standards and National Independence. The CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS materialised and mapped a path towards real self-government and Federation."

With interesting detail, the pamphlet goes on to show how the forces of counter-revolution developed under the leadership of the "be-ribboned general in Trinidad with no following". Albert Gomes has been seen in divers roles since his political career started!

The plot unfolds and Tewson-Deakin politics, with all its social democratic bankruptcy, is loosened in the Caribbean. But imperialism has wreaked such havoc and misery that this technique is a failure—this is the mood of the colonial people to-day:—

> "The Cypriot delegate, PISAS, was so taken-aback at the tone of the Conference following so closely on imperialist policies that he had to ask, 'where is the resolution in this Congress on liberty for the Colonials? . . .Are we going to limit ourselves merely to writing fine reports?' . . "

The ICFTU has failed again, as it did in Japan, Malaya, and everywhere. Its latest dictum from Berlin, July, 1952, is only further exposure of a wicked, insidious policy of Anglo-American imperialists in trade union clothing. Although a few renegades have been found in the West Indies, words such as these unanimously agreed at the CLC, 1949, Congress, strike an urgent note in the heart and soul of every self-respecting West Indian. The CLC is born to lead,

> "the evolution of our social and cultural standards, the expansion and stability of our economy, the orderly and vigorous development of our resources in human material and in land, the achievement of the individual and collective aspirations of our people and the creation of civilised standards of life . . ."

GREETINGS

Jamaica (C.L.C.)

Congratulations on the important step you have decided to take in launching the new magazine. The CLC London Branch has been a tower of strength to all our affiliates in the Caribbean area, and the publication of an official organ will mean even greater strength to our cause.

Keep up the good work and do not be discouraged by the attempts which are being made to undermine the unity of our forces and belittle your contribution to the struggle for freedom for the Caribbean Colonies.

(Signed) Richard Hart, Secretary, CLC.

Trinidad & Tobago

The Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council, representing the majority of organised workers in Trinidad and Tobago, British West Indies, sends the Caribbean Labour Congress, London Branch, its warmest fraternal greetings and best wishes on the publication of the "Caribbean News".

Caribbean Labour Congress, London Branch, has always since its inception stood for the rights of the down-trodden masses of the West Indies, and strength would be added to its representation by the great value of the publication, "Caribbean News", which we are sure will ceaselessly expose the injustices of colonial imperialism.

The workers of Trinidad and Tobago wish "Caribbean News" a long and vigourous life.

(Signed) Quinton O'Connor, Secretary.

CARIBBEAN NEWS
obtainable at
Central Books Ltd.
2 Parton Street, W.C.I.

EDITORIAL

People's Paper

A paper that professes to serve the interest of the people must express their desires and hopes, must unite them in the struggle for high ideals, and expose the designs of those who would befuddle the people with lies and distortion to keep them confused and defenceless.

"CARIBBEAN NEWS" has been created as a link in a strong chain to securely bind the oppressors of the West Indian people. It shall illuminate the dark corners by printing the TRUTH.

It stand irrevocably on the side of the people, of the masses of West Indians, for Federation and National Independence, for a better life.

All who aspire to these aims must make "Caribbean News" their forum. Only our Editorials will necessarily and at all times express the views of the paper.

On our foundation we have received the heartfelt greetings and support from several prominent West Indian organisations, some of which we have published.

We thank these organisations for their support, and extend our best wishes to all West Indian organisations which serve the interests of the people.

STOOGES

The wind-bags have started howling for the blood of the CLC (London Branch). This at a time when the utmost unity is needed for winning national independence.

The reputations of some of these witch-hunters as exponents of National Independence and Socialism must surely now be questioned by the rank and file, revealing them as splitters of the West Indian movement, disarming and disrupting the struggle in the face of the enemy.

Following the pattern of splitting the PNP of Jamaica, certain gents are obviously setting themselves up as little McCarran Committees. The West

continued on page 4

Workers' Freedom Movement (T'dad)

The publication of a news-magazine by your Congress is an expression of its progress and will assist its continued existence and development by making known its activities to a yet wider section of the West Indian peoples.

As we are already convinced that, apart from building the West Indian national consciousness, the magazine cannot but have a rallying effect in the struggle for Independence, we shall distribute some of them in these parts.

The co-ordination of your struggles in the U.K. with ours shall greatly facilitate the final expulsion of imperialism from our shores.

Long live the co-ordination of our activities!
WORKERS FREEDOM MOVEMENT (Trinidad)

Saint Vincent

We observe that you are publishing a magazine with matter for West Indian upliftment and literary culture. Our Twain Movement, PPP and the FIA Workers' welcome the venture and assure you of our co-operation.

We have found it necessary to give the editors, contributors, and all concerned the greatest amount of encouragement and inspiration in your task.

We shall endeavour from time to time to send you whatever we regard as suitable information and occurrences for publication.

(Signed) Stella Joshua, Secretary,
PEOPLE'S POLITICAL PARTY
OF SAINT VINCENT.

INTRODUCING THE C.L.C.

The Caribeean Labour Congress emerged out of the desire of West Indians for an organisation which would unite both the Trade Union and the Political Movements in the West Indies and further the aims of Federation.

Preceded by modest beginnings since 1928, the first full Congress held in 1945 and the second in 1947, worked out a policy for Universal Adult Suffrage, Federation, and Self-Government, with its long-term goal of SOCIALISM.

The LONDON BRANCH, founded in 1948, is the representative of the CLC in London. It functions in the interests of the West Indies.

Among the activities conducted, dances and socials are regular features. Meetings on all issues are organised, but particularly with reference to the West Indian situation.

West Indians in London who want to advance their homeland towards these goals, can best play their part by joining the CLC (LB).

There is also an active branch in Birmingham,

INDUSTRIALISATION

Path to West Indian Prosperity

Colonialism means the distortion of a country's economy, a thwarting of the development of its native peoples.

In the past decades, there has been a torrent of public and private discussion on the economic development of "backward" agrarian countries. Post-war problems have made this an important question, alike for the advanced capitalist countries and for the peoples of these "backward" areas.

Economic development means the fullest use of natural and human resources by the most advanced technique in the interests of the majority of the people. The heart of such development is industrialisation—the growth of manufacturing and secondary industries.

Why Industrialisation?

First, because it is essential for higher living standards. It means mechanisation and a greater increase in productivity per head. It allows and demands the fullest development of the power and other resources of the Islands.

Secondly, without such industrialisation no concept or formulation for the banning of racialism or colonialism will be effective. No firm foundation can be laid for improvement of agriculture. It increases the equipment necessary for effiecient agriculture. It enables the fullest use to be made of agricultural products by processing and utilising their by-products. It relieves the pressure on the land by transferring people from agriculture to new spheres of production.

Thirdly, without such industrialisation, real political independence cannot be achieved or maintained. It provides an internal base on which a country can build, even in periods of world crisis. It is a source of military and economic strength with which no independent country can dispense.

The effects of industrialisation are the expansion of the internal market by multiplying the trade between the new towns and rural areas, and the building up of a balanced economy dependent neither on one crop nor one industry.

Real or Sham Industrialisation?

Many who advocate the economic development of backward and colonial countries, have in mind the expansion of consumers' goods industries, the processing of food stuffs, raw materials and the like.

Certainly all this is highly desirable, but unless it leads to the development of a Capital goods industry, it will not constitute genuine industrialisation.

Under Whose Control?

In the West Indies, as in other countries, certain manufacturing industries following the world economic crisis and the stimulus of the Second World War were instituted, but none of them in the hands of West Indians.

Industrial development may take place without conferring any benefits on the majority of the people and, in fact, may merely exploit them in new ways (e.g. the American control of bauxite mining industry in Jamaica, the Trinidad oilfields and asphalt lakes), or it may be designed to make the West Indies an even more useful appendage of British and American imperialist economy.

The conclusion is, therefore, that industrialisation must be controlled by and designed to benefit the mass of people of the West Indies.

Is it Possible in the West Indies?

The needs of the people of the West Indies for textiles and clothing, shoes, furniture, good housing, adequate lighting, processed foods, books and newspapers, agricultural equipment and every kind and manufacture are insatiable and shared by the entire population of the West Indies.

Moreover, the resources are available with which a great extension of industrialisation is possible. And since Jamaica, Trinidad, Guiana and Barbados can often supply in resources what the rest of the Islands lacks, and vice-versa, fruitful exchange becomes possible.

The basis of all industrial development is Power. Britain's industry has been built up on Coal. West Indian industry of the future will most likely be based on Hydro-electric power.

This is a document prepared by the Merseyside West Indian Society. We hope it will stimulate widest discussion among West Indians. Readers are invited to send us their opinions and further contributions.—ED.

The scheme that would benefit the West Indies most would probably be the harnessing of the Kaieteur Falls and all the numerous beautiful waterfalls of the Islands. And if all the power be drawn off by head to tail dams, they would give no less than probably 3 million h.p.

There are other sources of fuel not yet surveyed. Coal, for example, is said to exist in Trinidad and Jamaica. Fuel from vegetable oils has been investigated and, during the war, a high quality oil was produced in Trinidad. The power is there if it is desired to develop it.

A preliminary survey suggests that not only the power, but valuable mineral deposits are also present.

Gold is found in Guiana, Copper and Tin in Jamaica. Lime stone coral and other lime stones are abundant in the Islands. There is no doubt that ample materials are available for the building industry as well as for the production of pottery.

A potential skilled labour force, ready to develop these resources, exists. The West Indians proved in England, Canada and America that they could use the complicated machinery of modern weapons and industry as skilfully as their white comrades.

Development Retarded

The power and natural resources are available, and so are the human resources. What then has held back their fullest use?

First, the West Indies, like all other colonial countries, has been regarded chiefly as a source of raw materials and certain food stuffs. Capital investment took place chiefly in agriculture and mining industries owned by foreign capitalists and imperialists, and the construction of railways and harbours which would exploit these resources more easily.

The big commercial firms which operate in the the West Indies have, up to the moment, not been interested in developing production, but have been content to draw off the wealth accumulated by trade.

Secondly, the West Indies has been looked on as an important market for British manufacturers. The value of British imports into the West Indies would, if the figures were known, no doubt run into hundreds of millions of pounds a year.

A large part of these imports from Britain consist of manufactured consumers' goods, which independent and developing countries produce (at least in part) for themselves.

British manufacturers and their agents in the West Indies have been opposed to any development which would create competition. This has largely coincided with the desires of the Islands aliens—blood-suckers who want no rivals.

Thirdly, industrialisation has been held back for fear of its political consequences, the stimulation of the National Movement and the creation of a compact West Indian proletariat.

Not all are so outspoken. Some put up the excuse that it is the poverty of natural resources which holds back development. But these resources have scarcely been investigated.

Other say that the restrictive factor is the small internal market. But on the contrary, is it not because of poverty that the internal markets are small, and is it not true that industrialisation is an essential measure for attacking poverty?

Lines of Industrial Development

The brief survey has shown that industrial development is possible, but that it has been restricted.

If we assume that the British Government decided to support industrialisation wholeheartedly, along what lines should it take place?

Any big development would have to involve Building and Construction on a large scale. The new workers who come to the towns or factories will need to be housed.

No less urgent is the re-housing of many thousands in Kingston, Jamaica, Georgetown, British Guiana, and elsewhere, who to-day are compelled to live in slums incomparably worse than the worst in London or Liverpool.

Then must come the construction of public buildings for amenities and services, such as schools, hospitals, clinics, model farm buildings, welfare centres and the like. Public works construction would be greatly extended, covering the construction of dams, excavated tanks, road construction and ancillary buildings.

Finally, factories, mining buildings, storage and electricity works would all be required. A very large part of the labour force would therefore be engaged in this work.

With the task of construction goes the preparation and manufacture of Building Materials, nearly all of which are to be found throughout the West Indies.

The excellent clays would enable the West Indies to make all the roofing tiles required. The large scale production of cement, by the existing factories would, of course, be essential.

There is a need for the extension of Processing in sisal, coffee, tea, sugar, bacon, butter, soap, canned meat, cotton lint, corn meal, soya-bean flour, soda ash, and salt. Dehydration could be applied, not only to vegetables, but to fruit and meat.

The Oil Extraction Industry is capable of expansion and improvement. The Fish Industry has an important future.

In every sphere of food production there will be room for development as the living standards of the people are improved, and a large number enter non-agricultural employment.

Glass and Earthenware: All the materials are available for production. Excellent fire bricks and drain-pipes could be manufactured out of local materials.

Textiles and Clothing would expand to meet growing demands. Cotton is grown all over the West Indies. Wool is available, and Jute has many possibilities. From leather, shoes and leather goods of all types could be produced.

The development of the BASIC Industries would be given priority. Of power resources we have already written. A planned programme of electrification would be put in hand without delay.

Chemical production is urgent, desirable, and possible. The Alkali deposits of Guiana, together with the sulphuric acid already manufactured from local material, form the base for a wide range of chemical products.

Mining, especially gold and copper, will no doubt be extended. Mining, chemicals, and power provide the base for the building up of an Engineering industry.

The manufacture of agricultural implements represents an obvious beginning. Cultivators, hoes, ploughs, drills and other implements are urgently required for an improvement in farming techniques.

Dairy production would be assisted by the manufacture of churns, butter workers, pasteurisers, etc. The aluminium factory and small foundries which exist would all require expansion.

The manufacture of small petrol and diesel engines could be developed, as well as the production of pumps and presses. The construction of small coastal vessels for a start is worth investigation.

It is of the greatest importance that a start be made in the production of machine tools. Die-casting machinery can first be imported, and tool and gauge production begun, as well as the manufacture of lathes, shaping, drilling and milling machinery.

Government Controlled

The major part of it would require to be under the control of the Government. It is certain that only the Government will be able to finance such large scale production.

So and So

There is a storm blowing in the Caribbean. This is no ordinary gale, and it has taken the most amazing zig-zag course.

One moment, it is beating through the streets of Kingston, Jamaica, panic-striken employers slam their doors, workers are laid off right and left, the winds rise to a howling crescendo, masses of hungry workers and peasants demand relief. First, the unashamed Government stooges try to hold back the inferno, they fail; then the Manleys, the Hills, and their crowd try to breach the ranks with confusion. There is a lull . . .

by "THE LINK"

. . . Then there is a mighty gust that hits St. Vincent. Sky-rocketting prices have increased the turbulence. Joshua offers his services and with a steady hand directs the force against the really wicked; the governor, the administrator—British Imperialism, in fact.

Who could have expected Trinidad to have escaped this man-made storm? Like Sodom and Gomorrah, the people who have held West Indian territory with the whip, the bayonet, tear-gas and battleship, stand in fear before the terror that threatens them.

Rance's iron curtain is no safeguard, wind and rain lash Arima, Safie the textile capitalists are hit, the Federated Workers Trade Union and the Workers Freedom Movement in a solid mass demand and win for the workers increased wages and better working conditions. La Rose, O'Connor and others shout for solidarity from the mock fortress that tries to hold them from their brothers in Grenada, British Guiana, Barbadoes, Malaya, China and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The tempo is rising, sometimes the clouds break, a ray of sunshine rushes through and spotlights the TUC, Jamaica, which under pressure from its natural enemies, the employers, assisted by traitors in their own ranks, have been floundering, at last strikes free momentarily and shatters the myth of God-like supremacy that the Hills claim for themselves in the tradition of a Manley, a Hitler, or a Bustamente.

The thunder rolls, Grantley Adams on a precarious rock in Barbadoes, hesitates . . . there are doubts as to where next the blow will fall—he had failed in His Masters' bidding to destroy the CLC. Caribbean unity withstood the plots and plans of Yankee super-racists and their henchmen, labelled LABOUR. What next? But a tropical storm is unpredictable and the forces resulting from intense oppression radiates in a myriad of directions.

In a flash, Booker Bros. in British Guiana is struck with lightning speed, Bradshaw (St. Kitts) is exposed alongside his colleagues, Marryshaw, Manley, Adams and an ambitious Hill.

Luckhoo, lurking in the British Guiana rice fields, nervously thinks he has escaped, but the morass around him is too deep and the waters are rising. He looks enviously at another Guianese riding the storm with confidence, indeed, guiding the force that is growing, growing . . Cheddi Jagan from the Legislative Council has used his hard-won seat, and is a real bulwark for every patriotic Guianese.

And the storm is raging, nothing in the high heavens can stop it, it is man's ugly deeds and the vengeance is just. First, here, then there, from British Honduras, across the coral reefs, down the eastern isles—there isn't even a drop of oil to pour on the troubled Caribbean; Trinidad Leaseholds, Apex and their gang are such a drain—and back towards the mainland British Guiana, the masses are fighting in the face of bitter odds.

To-morrow, the whole Caribbean will have been washed, and the calm that follows the storm is worth awaiting.

Want to write?

"CARIBNEWS" has been set up to collect and disseminate news to and from the West Indies. Anyone wishing to be associated with this News Agency as a Correspondent, should write for information to the Editor, "Caribbean News".

SPORT

A TRIBUTE TO OUR HELSINKI ATHLETES

by Sidney Singh

The month of July, 1952, witnessed once more the great collective of international sporting energies in motion at the Olympic Games in Helsinki. The origin of the Olympic Games had its roots in the cultural architecture of early Greek society and is being transmitted by the objective evolution of history to embrace the human being more and more as an international unit. Along with the physical movement of sport and the shattering of physical records, there is also a simultaneous explosion of illusory and fixed ideological concepts that will eventually contribute to ultimate human release.

The Greek society correctly sought in the Olympic event a genuine release from the physical labour of human toil, but at the same time they denied themselves this release by becoming immersed in false idealisms of absolute beauty and the rigid symmetry of regular geometric form. But history has moved in time, and time is the sculptor that creates and at the same time shatters and exposes the individual illusion of beauty. To-day we see obscure forces arising from all parts of the world making a decisive contribution to real forms of beauty in the human world, and the West Indian, so far, is playing no minor role in this respect.

It is with great pride that we put on record the phenomenal successes of the West Indian athletes, Herb McKinley, Arthur Wint, Rhoden and, to a lesser extent, the performance of McDonald Bailey, and we must emphasise that these successes were phenomenal, since these men have sprung from a society where the struggle for survival is sometimes just a question of natural selection. In the recent games, where the competition had become more intensified with the entry of the U.S.S.R. and socialist democracies of Eastern Europe, the performances of the three Jamaicans stand out in the international hall of sport. Rhoden and McKenley were first and second respectively in the 400 metres final, McKenley was second in the 100 metres final, and the Jamaican team were victors in the 400 metres relay finals. This collective power of the Jamaicans sets an example for a collective pattern of West Indian sport.

To-day the West Indian scene is undergoing economic and political orientation with a view to final constructive federation and we hope that in 1956 there will be a West Indian Olympic team representative of a true Caribbean collective. We must be proud of our originality in the performances of these West Indians. It is not insignificant that Britain secured her only gold medal through the instrumentality of a horse—a sure sign that with her economic decline and loss of economic individuality there has also been a partial loss of all her human individuality.

The originality of West Indian sport is in embryo and to preserve it it is noteworthy to examine the outstanding performance of the U.S.S.R. and the Eastern European democracies, Czechoslovakia's Emil Zatopek has created a monument in time, showing that under a progressive economic socialist system, man can realise his cultural potentialities to the highest degree.

"CN" FUND

Those who understand the problems of running a publication that concedes nothing to the big money-bags, will not be surprised that we are starting off with an APPEAL for regular financial contributions. We ask our READERS to support the Political fight of our paper by making regular Financial contributions.

READER-CORRESPONDENTS

"CARIBBEAN NEWS" desires to give its readers the best news and information, so as to be of the greatest assistance to the West Indian movement.

For this, a paper must have close contacts with the people where the news is being made. Not being able to have a staff of reporters, "Caribbean News" must rely on its readers.

We therefore ask readers to be also correspondents. Whatever you do, wherever you may live, there are always occurrences and conditions which we need to know about. What's happening at the place you work, what are conditions under which you live and study or play, or which you are able to observe. In short, write to us about anything.

If you wish to become regular correspondents for the paper, the best and cheapest channels would be through "Caribnews", the News Agency just formed. (See advert this page.)

THE ROOTS OF CULTURE

by Jan Carew

The West Indian has now reached a stage at which he claims pompously that his culture is predominantly European in its orientation, or else he is a muddled nationalist who gets as far as pointing to the calypso as the yardstick for measuring his culture.

The first thing that we must understand is that WE DO HAVE A CULTURE and if we have no culture, then there is really no culture in the world. The British anthropologist, Grahame Clark, states: "Man and culture are, indeed, coincident; it is impossible to conceive of man at however low a level without culture, and there is no culture apart from man".

Culture in all cases has its roots in the human being and his creative labour, so that although, on the surface, world culture looks like a broken mosaic, it is essentially linked to all men. Wherever man lives together, pools his labour, using a collective of experience and sharing what Shaw calls "the memory of mankind" to sustain life, to provide creative recreation, to strive to bring his environment more and more under his control so that he might enjoy a higher standard of living—he can lay just claims to having a culture.

It is the failing of capitalist Europe and America that the institution is worshipped above the man who created it, and the label "culture" is pinned to the institution. When the institution is severed from its human links it becomes a medium of oppressing the very men and women who created it. It is important that the West Indians of all classes understand the roots of culture and its links for our nation; our culture can only develop with a profound understanding of these factors.

West Indian culture has its roots in our slave ancestors, in the Amerindian who was almost completely exterminated by imperialist predators, and our ancestors who came after chattel slavery as indentured labour. Our culture grew up in the midst of ceaseless struggle and its further development will depend on continued unrelenting struggle by all West Indians to-day.

The heritage of struggle is an intrinsic part of our culture, for without the constant fight of our ancestors to preserve their human dignity and their human rights, we would not have been even where we are to-day.

The advance of our culture must take place simultaneously on many levels: on the political level, on the level of literature, of music, the dance of the rich folk lore of our different Islands and mainland territories.

What specific direction can one give to the cultural march of progress in the West Indies? One can only say that our main concern must be with man, the human being, the human person, man not as an illusory individual but man as an individual linked to the collective man of his environment, thrown up and sustained in this collective.

Culture develops rapidly under pressures of necessity; the revolutionary poet, Shelley, called necessity "Thou mother of the world" and our West Indian struggle for nationhood is prompted by complex necessities that are a part of our heritage.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS ★★

RISING STORM AGANST MALAN

by Rolly Sims

The news coming from South Africa—Dr. Malan's persecution of progressive trade unionists and his fascist racial laws—has caused all who treasure freedom to voice their protests at the blasphemes of this debauched doctor of theology.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (LB) has, in keeping with its tradition and policy, placed the West Indies in the forefront of those who support the oppressed peoples of South Africa Below we carry a photograph of the President of our London Branch and some members "visiting" the High Commissioner for South Africa.

The struggle in South Africa has grown rapidly and to-day the united movement of African, Indian and Coloured peoples against Malan has sent a bolt of fear through those who support him.

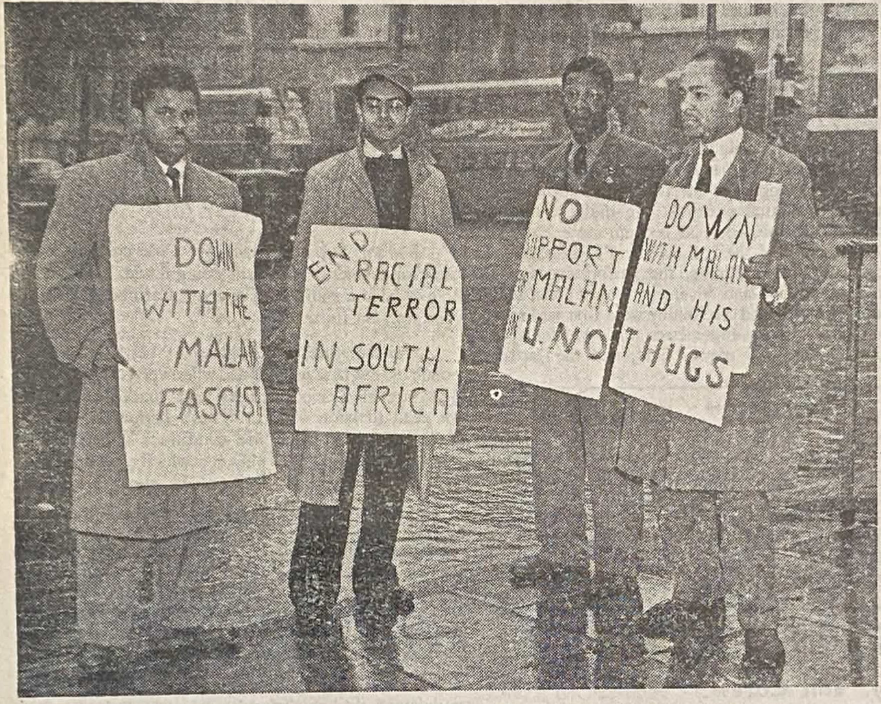
A section of white intellectuals, parsons and businessmen who previously supported Malan or turned their faces the other way, have been so frightened by the resistance campaign that they have come out with some pleas to Malan to soften his policy.

This success, although limited, is nevertheless important, as it nails the lie that Indians, Africans and decent-minded whites cannot co-operate, and shows that when these forces unite, they can destroy the reactionary forces.

This campaign is not a sudden upheaval to subside quickly. This is a grim, determined campaign of persons who are quite conscious of the sacrifice they are going to make.

So far, nearly 5,000 resisters have been arrested. Before going out on these demonstrations, the volunteers knowing what to expect—the hunger and cold of South African prisons— put on as many warm garments as possible, often having to borrow from the whole neighbourhood, and then march out with the cry of Africa on their lips and their irrepressible thumbs up sign.

All who support the struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa can help by taking any of the following actions, according to their circumstances:


DOWN WITH THE MALAN FASCIS
END RACIAL TERROR IN SOUTH AFRICA
NO
PPORT
MALAN
U.N.O
DOWN WITH MALAN AND HIS THUGS

Demonstrators outside South Africa House, London

1. Join the CLC (LB) and make our protests more powerful;
2. Messages of solidarity to the African National Congress and to the South African Indian Congress;
3. Messages of protest to U.N.O.;
4. Press for the boycott of South African goods in the West Indies.

LITERATURE YOU NEED

THUNDER—Progressive monthly (British Guiana), 4d. per copy or 5/6 per year, Post Paid.
ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICAN PEOPLE, by Richard Hart. The workers history. 2/-.
SERETSE KHAMA and the Bamangato People, 6d.
Order from P. Tomlinson (Lit. Sec., CLC (LB), 45 Brondesbury Villas, Kilburn, N.W.6.
(Postage 1½d. extra)

DANCE
Carle Francis and his Caribbeans
Saturday, December 6th. 7—11 p.m.
London School of Printing, Stamford St. Waterloo Tube

Rapid Progress of Former Colonies

The amazing progress that the former Tsarist colonies have made in Soviet times was keynoted by L. Beria at the 19th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party recently concluded in Moscow.

In Tsarist times, industrial development in Central Asia had not differed from that in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan.

To-day, 35 years after the Revolution, Kazakhastan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, and Tajikistan, with a total population of 17 million, were producing three times as much electricity as a group of Near-Eastern countries with a population of 156 million.

ADVANCED AGRICULTURE

Uzbekistan has one tractor to every 175 acres of sown land, while Pakistan has one to 22,000 acres, India one to 32,000, Persia one to 45,000.

Soviet republics in the East are now producing as much raw cotton as India, Egypt, Persia and Afghanistan together.

EDUCATION

For every 10,000 Tadjiks, 58 are doing higher education, Turkmens 60, Kirghis 64, Uzbeks 71, Azerbaijanians 93; while corresponding figures abroad were Persia 3, India 9, Turkey and Egypt 12, Sweden 21, Italy 32, Denmark 34, and France 36.

Editorial

continued from page 1

Indian Macarthys, bankrupt of any real criticism of the work of the London Branch, revert to the time-worn tactics of the red herring.

But when any honest person examines the record of the London Branch, he must immediately be impressed by its selfless work in West Indian interests.

When a CLC (LB) deputation, supported by the WISU, protests to the Minister of State for Colonies against infringement of civil liberties of West Indians, when public meetings are organised in London, the heart of the Empire, in support of workers on strike in Antigua, WHOSE interests are being served?

Grantley Adams, himself, was right when a year ago in a message to the CLC (LB) Annual General Meeting, he called on all West Indians in London to support the London Branch and stand for the cause of democratic socialism. But Grantley Adams, who a year later accused the London Branch, is now WRONG.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED ?

Was it the CLC that changed, or ADAMS? Has the CLC's activities in the last year been any different from the three years previously?

One is naturally led to wonder what brought about Adam's CHANGE of tune. And immediately one thinks: could it have resulted from the Berlin Conference of the ICFTU ? This appears to be the most fitting conclusion, representing as it does the carrying out in the West Indies of the overall strategy of weakening the people's struggle for National Independence.

When one further realises that the attack on the London Branch, the most active body of the CLC, is aimed at the entire CLC itself and its fighting policies of 1945 and 1947, the conclusion reached above is inescapable.

If the plot to destroy the London Branch succeeds, it would pave the way for the disruption of the entire CLC and lead to an organisation whose policies would be more amenable to the world imperialists, whose instrument is the ICFTU leadership.

But let the political Goliaths beware. West Indian working people will be vigilant and will eventually see the true nature of these giants. They cannot allow such a plot to succeed. What starts with a growl, may end in a squeak.

NO USELESS TALK

The international workers' song which goes: "We want no bull and useless talk that brings no bread or meat . . . Join in the workers' united front, for you are a worker too", gives recognition to the fact that people will not be fooled for long by demagogy.

West Indians want to forge ahead in their living conditions. They won't be put off much longer, and they are coming to see Political Independence and Industrialisation as the path to Prosperity.

It would be folly to imagine that industrialisation can take place while political slavery continues. The splendid example of the former Tsarist colonies in Soviet Central Asia should indicate this.

The present schemes for development through CDC and other agencies are preponderantly to make the profit-squeezing racket more efficient—à la "Daily Express" clarion calls for "Development of the Empire".

The conception of "friendly" American capital is fraught with danger for the West Indies. The history of the Latin-American countries should be enough to convince any West Indian of the greedy appetite of Uncle Sam.

We don't want to let ourselves fall into the position of fighting to throw off one set of exploiters only to find ourselves more securely under the haunches of an even more avaricious and efficient lot of robbers.

We want to be RID of BOTH !

The Merseyside article should stir our thoughts to the possibilities which exist in our country for a programme of industrialisation and advancing prosperity.

We need to know not only that we have to be free from foreign exploitation, but we must also be enthused in that struggle by glimpsing the Glorious Future which will be OURS when once we have achieved our NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

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BRITISH HONDURAS
GUATEMALA

WAR PREPARATIONS IN WEST INDIES — TURKS ISLANDS

by BILLY STRACHAN

The tiny salt-laden Turks Islands, rich with Iguana and Booby Bird are now another cog in the Yankee gears for war and destruction.

Barren little Turks Islands are officially dependencies of Jamaica and are governed by a Commissioner, subject to the British Governor of Jamaica. There are **no** elections. There is **no** representation for the 2,000 or so inhabitants who eke out an existence in the shadeless sun.

Every attempt at developing trade unions is directly stifled, over and above the force of gruelling economic conditions that reduce the 'fight' in every Turks islander to a minimum.

The introduction of United States finance capital seemed promising prospects for alternative employment (if any) to the Government semi-owned fully controlled TURKS ISLAND SALT COMPANY. The islanders are now paying a heavy price for the cost of permitting the Yanks free entry to recruit slave labour. This is a summary of present day conditions by the Secretary of the TURKS ISLAND WORKERS' UNION at Grand Turk.

Guided Missiles

"At the present moment we are in a bitter struggle. As you are aware, the United States Authorities are at present erecting a Guided Missile Observation Post in these islands. The work seems to be under two distinct heads—a modern airstrip, and the observation post. The airstrip is being built entirely under the supervision of military personnel, and the observation post under a firm of contractors, known as the Macdonald Construction Company with offices in the United States and in Nassau, Bahamas.

This Government has moved swiftly to have **complete jurisdicition over local labour employed** on these projects. First, **they have had all the workers registered,** even though the population is so small, that such a move seems unjustified. Next they have arbitrarily set out the wages which the various authorities must pay to the workers. Lastly, they have put all local labour affairs in the hands of the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which is **Government controlled,** and more than half owned by Government.

The workers are paid off each Saturday at the Company's offices. All efforts on the part of the union to state its case and to seek bargaining rights on these projects have been side-tracked. Recently, we wrote the representatives of the Construction Company asking for an opportunity to discuss matters with him, but he has not yet replied. The whole thing smacks of "regimentation" of the workers.

Wages

Rates of pay average 1/6 per hour. Current prices of stable food are **higher** than equivalent prices in Britain to-day. Many workers earn only 1/- per hour and additionally find their own tools for work in the scrub, or rock quarries. All this happens in a section of the British Empire, which is expected to preserve loyalty and respect for the British Crown as a symbol of unity.

Let every West Indian recognise the price of foreign capital and worst of all United States dollars, that brings with it the methods of the most brutal of all imperialisms whose shameless hands are stained with the crime of U.S. Negro genocide.

This is a severe warning to every West Indian but it is not entirely new, although so many of the present labour aristocracy seem to have forgotten their accusations of the recent past.

During the 1945 Conference of the **Caribbean Labour Congress** held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from the 17th to 27th September, the agenda allowed for a special item entitled U.S. NAVAL AND AIR BASES. Speaker after speaker denounced the notorious lease

continued on page 4

MUNICIPAL WORKERS STRIKE IN BRITISH GUINA

From our British Guiana Correspondent.
Georgetown, November 13.

Over 500 employees of the Georgetown Town Council and members of the Municipal Workers Trade Union went on strike on Tuesday demanding increased cost of living allowance of 5% from January, 1952. The Union had repeatedly demanded the increase during the year and it was not until the annual estimates meeting last week that the Council decided to grant the 10% cost of living allowance for 1953, and a 5% for the months October to December, 1952.

No garbage was collected and no dead were buried while the workers were on strike. The workers returned to work the next day while talks were going on. A compromise offer by the Town Council failed to meet the approval of the workers, who to-day gave notice that they will strike again in 30 days if their demands are not met in the meantime.

The strike exposed in glaring light the function of the Government-run Labour Exchange which acted as a strike-breaker. The Labour Exchange contacted unemployed on their lists, offering them jobs in the municipality.

WAGES

The municipal workers receive an average wage of $10.5 per week. It costs the government of British Guiana 41 cents per day per person to feed prisoners in jail. Translating this in terms of the average family (statistics give it as 4.6 persons) the cost of food alone per family is $13.20 per week. Food products like butter ($1.26 per lb) and eggs ($1.08 per doz.) and milk (14 cents per pint) are far beyond the purse of the working class families.

St. Kitts Walk-out

Reprinted from "Thunder"

All eight newly elected members of the St. Kitts Legislative Council showed in no uncertain terms their dislike and dissatisfaction with Governor Blackbourne of the Leeward Isles. They walked out of Council as the Governor got up to address them at the opening of the new Legislature.

Newspaper reports say that Blackbourne observed that the action of the eight was a display of bad manners and that if such an attitude continues "nothing but a dim future faces St. Kitts."

Yes—a dim future for colonialism and exploitation when the workers' representatives have the guts to fight back!

West Indian Legislatures should look to these new legislators for inspiration and a source for new spirit.

WEST INDIAN PATRIOTS EXPOSE GRANTLEY ADAMS

From our Jamaican Correspondent

Richard Hart, Councillor Quinton O'Connor, Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, M.L.C., John La Rose and Hon. E. T. Joshua, M.L.C., led the pilgrimage to Bridgetown, Barbados.

With Grantley Adams fully exposed in his plots to destroy the C.L.C. on instructions from the Anglo-American bosses, the sincere mass leaders from St. Vincent, Trinidad, British Guiana and Jamaica, set out on a last minute bid to save Adams from his own destruction.

Rance, the British Governor of Trinidad, put up the first barricade. Immediately prior to setting off by plane from Kingston, Jamaica, the airline officials informed Hart and his companion Ferdinand Smith (the internationally celebrated Trade Unionist) that they would not even be permitted to fly intransit through Piarco airport, Trinidad. The U.S.A. hysteria 'Forrestalitis" is fast on the way to claiming another victim. Rance's blue blood would make an awful mess in Woodford Square ! !

The bona-fide West Indian Federationists remained undaunted and appealed to Adams in his own court to stand by the West Indies. Armed with the knowledge that the organised workers were revolted by Adams capitulation to foreign interests operating through the I.C.F.T.U's traitorous leaders, the delegation faced him supported by a wall of confidence.

DEMOCRACY TRIUMPHS

Resulting from Adams' presumptive letter overriding democratic procedure, demanding a Council Meeting of the C.L.C., to start the rot for the disintegration of the C.L.C., he has suffered a severe defeat. Added to the solid vote in the interest of West Indians by the T.U.C. Trinidad, T.U.C. & Peoples Progressive Party, British Guiana, the Peoples Political Party St. Vincent, there was the old stalwart of ANTIGUA, the Hon. V. C. Bird, M.L.C., who stated that the ANTIGUA TRADES & LABOUR UNION could only be bound by Conference decisions, and **"will have right to ignore decisions by council."**

> Alas, the burden of a guilty conscience weighs heavily and the frightened man could only blurt out the truth; "Mr. Adams told the delegation that he could not agree to their proposals, and he was sure the I.C.F.T.U. would not be willing to change their policy that there should be a division on ideological grounds, Mr. Hart told the Gleaner." DAILY GLEANER (Jamaica) 13/11/52.

* * *

As the captain stumbled, the whole ship floundered and members of the Executive Committee of the BARBADOS WORKERS' UNION called on the visitors from the rest of the Caribbean and further exposed the evils of their Fuehrer. They were quite ignorant of the whims and plots that thrived in the mind of Adams. The sincerity and reliability of the organised workers once again survived, and to the credit of the Barbadians, a monster crowd of over 5,000 turned out in Bridgetown protesting at the repeated violations of civil liberties and the increasing ban on West Indians travelling between the territories. In fact, the crowd invoked the direct support and action of their paid servants, the elected representatives of the BARBADOS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

COLOUR DISCRIMINATION in Brixton Pubs

by KEITH THOMAS

Not long ago, at most six months, the fascist-minded element in Brixton gave expression of colour prejudice by chalking slogans on walls.

"KEEP BRIXTON WHITE" was one that aroused many comments, and the vigour with which progressives attacked the action caused those responsible to be somewhat wary. However, discriminatory practices are still being carried on.

"I am sorry, I object"

A woman journalist recently went around the public houses in Brixton accompanied by a coloured man. Service was either refused them or reluctantly given in most of the pubs.

There is no doubt that discrimination in Brixton, where there is a fairly large coloured population, has not even the veneer of most other districts.

In a small pub in Coldharbour Lane the journalist and her coloured companion after being served with a beer and a tomato juice, had just settled down when the woman licensee walked over and said, "I am sorry—I object." When asked what she objected to she replied,

> **"This is a small family bar. If mine were a bigger place one wouldn't notice you boys so much. Then I could have a separate bar and the white people could join you if they wanted to."**

Asked whether she refused to serve Negroes she said:

> **"I would serve a Negro one drink and make it clear that he would not get another. Especially with a white girl, he would not be welcome. My white customers have been complaining and I would lose them if I had Negroes here."**

In another pub they were bluntly told:

> **"We don't serve coloured gentlemen with white girls. Nothing personal in this. We got so many nasty remarks passed and quarrels. We serve Negroes alone but not when they are with white girls."**

Only in two pubs at the corner of Loughborough Park did they get service without difficulty; also one at Brixton Stn. Road.

It must be mentioned that at another pub in Atlantic Road the genial Irish proprietor chatted freely, even mentioning the difficulty of the colour problem, and on the whole showed no difference.

Birmingham too!

Three M.P's—Mr. Victor Yates, Mr. Julius Silverman and Mr. P. L. E. Shurmer, received a deputation led by Dr. C. J. K. Piliso. The deputation drew attention to cases of hardship and distress now becoming increasingly frequent among the coloured work-people in BIRMINGHAM.

Points in the protest were: Allegations by employers that white workers did not like having coloured workers in the same work places; the difficulty of securing places to live; and no recreational facilities.

Rare among fellow workers

Coloured workers have said that the cases of racial hostility from fellow workers were very few.

It is said that the Birmingham group of Socialist M.P's may approach the Ministry of Labour about living conditions of coloured workers in the city.

The matter is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Socialist group at Westminster when a report from the three M.P's will be heard.

Bring to public attention

These issues are carefully followed by the Caribbean Labour Congress (LONDON BRANCH) which will always bring them to the attention of the public.

Ways of breaking these barriers are always being sought and carried out. But without UNITY neither these things nor National Independence, the ultimate West Indian aim, can be achieved.

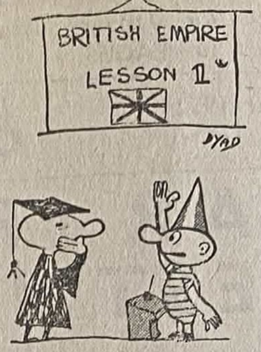
IF THE C.L.C. IS SUPPORTED BY A STRONG MEMBERSHIP AND READING PUBLIC IT WILL WAX IN STRENGTH AND BREAK THROUGH TO THE GOAL. JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW !

West Indian Forum in Brixton

Caribbean News Reporter

"ENQUIRE WITHIN UPON EVERTHING" a West Indian forum, was organised by the C.L.C. (London Branch) in Brixton on Friday, 14th November, at the Stockwell Road Primary School. The panel of speakers included Dr. Sawh, of British Guiana, Mr. Peter Blackman, noted West Indian poet from Barbados, and Mr. Ted Brake, active British trade unionist.

Discrimination against coloured people in Brixton pubs was discussed and West Indians in Brixton were urged to form a branch of the C.L.C., so that organised action could be taken with the assistance of local trade unions and other organisations.



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FEDERATION NEARER?

The Colonial Office has announced that the Legislature of Jamaica, Trinidad, the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (with the exception of the Virgin Islands) have now accepted the principle of West Indian Federation and have authorised their Governments to enter into discussions on the subject. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has accordingly invited these Governments to send delegates to a Conference in London to be held in March or April, 1953. The exact date for the Conference will be settled later.

The Legislative Council and House of Assembly in Barbados are still considering the Federation proposals put forward in the report of the Standing Closer Association Committee, but an invitation to participate in the Conference has been sent to the Government of Barbados.

LITERATURE

THUNDER—Progressive monthly (British Guiana), 4d. per copy or 5/6 per year, Post Paid.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICAN PEOPLE by Richard Hart. The workers history. 2/-

SERETSE KHAMA and the Bamangwato People 6d.

YOUTH ARISE, monthly paper of Jamaica Youth Movement 2d.

Order from P. Tomlinson (lit.Sec.)
45 Brondesbury Villas, Kilburn, N.W.6
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HEALTH EDUCATION IN BARBADOS?

Mrs. Cecile Walcott, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., R.San.I., writing in the October, 1952 issue of THE HEALTH EDUCATION JOURNAL published in Britain, emphasises a few home truths that could do well for the ears of the Hon. Grantley Adams, M.C.P., and fellow sycophants.

by "THE LINK"

Rambling a bit here and there, the author relates very briefly a few incidents that occurred during her stay in Barbados.

Admitting that one of the most serious aspects of social relationship in Barbados has been due to the savagery of imperialism, she very nearly hits the spot on the question of the prevalence of "illegitimacy."

> "Reluctance of both men and women of the working classes to marry is probably a legacy of the days of slavery, when the marriage of slaves was forbidden by the law. The stability afforded by family life has therefore been denied those who need it most. This sorry state of affairs is undoubtedly an important contributory factor to the persistently high infant mortality."

Mrs. Walcott could also have added that the extremely low level of wages and extremely high prices of commodities rendered family life economically unstable. All social diseases could be traced as a direct descendant of this root cause.

Tying up very neatly how politics controls the future (if any?) of Health Education, the article in the HEALTH EDUCATION JOURNAL reports the failure of the passage of a Public Health Bill to the statute books.

Infant mortality

In spite of the crying necessity for health education in a tiny island of some 300,000 population, when the infant mortality rate is 149 (1947/48), and where over 100 delegates meet in conference to discuss the health of the people and unanimously carried a resolution "calling on the Government to give immediate attention to the need of improved health legislation and methods of health education . . . ", Mrs. Cecile Walcott reports:

> "In spite of my boosting, the bill failed to pass the Upper House and will probably not be presented again for some time."

And yet, there are boasts from politicians who claim that they have so manoeuvred themselves that virtually the British Governors have handed over power in fact to them, though not yet written into the constitution?

Grantley Adams might well ask his I.C.F.T.U. bosses in Berlin, Washington, or London if Health Education is permissible in Barbados!

The answer that comes from "over 100" Barbadian delegates is supported by the answer of 3,000,000 West Indians (less a handful of stooges) who want to see an end to the Upper Houses with their parasitic nominated members, and the replacement by a wholly elected representative assembly that speaks in the name of the West Indian nation.

Health Education, preventative and curative medicine would then become a reality for the people of BARBADOS.

* * *

Editorial

Bermuda Sold

The War Office announced "with regret" on November 9th that "in the present circumstances, it is obliged to withdraw the British garrison" from the British colony of Bermuda. The War Office spokesman said responsibility for the defence of Bermuda now falls to N.A.T.O., the American dominated war block.

Bermuda has been handed over to the Yankees not cheerfully but "with regret". It is thus seen that Britain's "best friend" is whittling away and penetrating into its privileged positions of imperialist domination.

Underlying the colossal efforts of the British Tories and Right-Wing Labour leaders to paint in pastel hues the "friendly" relationship of the British and American capitalistic rulers, there is the steady wrangle and conflict between them for better shares in the imperialist loot.

Bermuda has provided another striking instance, in the West Indies, where the stronger Yankee imperialists have ousted their British rivals, relegating them to junior partners in the imperialist game.

Malenkov aptly characterised American imperialism as not only the aggressor, but also the world gendarme.

West Indians will shed no tears for the subservient plight of Britain's rulers, but will also not dance for joy at the new overlord in Bermuda. The people do not benefit from the change of masters. They must be free of masters altogether.

When Billy Strachan and Ferdinand Smith, outstanding champions of West Indian freedom, passed through Bermuda earlier this year the colour bar was applied to them. They were not allowed to enter the hotel with the other white airplane passengers for breakfast, but were shunted off to a backroom where no breakfast was served. They learned that the colour bar policy was applied at the insistence of the Americans who dominate the island.

Bermudans and all other West Indians can take little comfort in this Yankee conquest.

RALLY TO "CARIBBEAN NEWS"

Caribbean News is here to stay. The second number of the paper is out. We have received greetings expressing heartfelt support from several people's organisations in the West Indies which have welcomed this paper for the rôle expected of it. Big things are expected of our paper in providing the kind of service that will rally the greatest number of adherents to the cause for which we fight.

This we can only do if our readers give us great support.

To be of the greatest service the "NEWS" must be made a mass paper read by large numbers of West Indians.

At the present price of sixpence, this obviously presents a difficulty in widening the popularity of the paper among great numbers of people in the West Indies who need the paper but for whom sixpence is an almost prohibitive price.

Were it possible to produce "NEWS" to be sold at a more attractive price, we feel sure that there would be absolutely no obstacle to tremendously expanding the sales.

One thousand copies of the first issue were printed and cost price per copy worked out at fourpence. We have offered to supply agents handling the paper at this rate of fourpence including postage. The December issue has been increased to fifteen hundred copies.

To make "Caribbean News" more popular at the price, the January issue will be an enlarged 8-pager with photographs. If we are to even cover expenses which will work out at a bit over sixpence per copy cost price, we must produce and SELL two thousand copies of the enlarged January issue.

* * *

We are sure that our readers and well-wishers would like to see the price of the "NEWS" go down. This can only be realised if the SALES are INCREASED.

We feel that step by step production and sales could spiral to ultimately as high as five thousand. As sales go UP, price comes DOWN.

We consequently appeal to our readers to spare no effort in pushing up the sales of "Caribbean News". Individual readers can do this by ordering a number of copies for sale to their friends and in their neighbourhood. Readers who order in small numbers for sale can also get the 40% discount.

Readers can also assist by taking out yearly subscriptions.

This is an URGENT APPEAL, and we ask EVERY reader to consider seriously what he or she can do to increase the sales of a paper that speaks for the ordinary man and woman in the West Indies, a paper that scorns to compromise with the imperialist oppressors.

RALLY NOW TO YOUR PAPER!

THE PAINTING and SCULPTURE of NAMBA ROY

by Jan Carew

Namba Roy's exhibition of paintings and sculpture held at the Archer Gallery was generally acclaimed by art critics in London. That is acclaimed with a tinge of almost unconscious patronage that the British art critic adopts in dealing with the Negro or the Colonial artist. The British critic, to do him justice, usually praises the work of Colonial artists provided they reveal no taint of social protest. Art works created around the theme of social protest only attract the attention of the progressive press.

Namba Roy belongs to the new generation of artist emerging from the West Indies. A generation symbolising the awakening of West Indian society as a whole; a collective and not an individual awakening. Both his paintings and sculpture suffer, however, from a lack of any real direction. And direction for the artist means a profound understanding of his people and their relation to their environment, of the dialectic of human culture and of the rhythms and energies that link him to the world.

Like so many West Indians who are cut off from their roots, Roy deals with the illusory and not with the actual. His sculpture is concerned almost exclusively with folk lore: "Portrait of Bra Anancy" "Bra Anancy (the thinker)", "Quako, son of Bra Anancy" and many other pieces in the same vein. When he is not dealing with folk lore he deals with religion in an equally illusory manner.

Folk lore is in itself the heritage of all people and can be used effectively to enrich art, but the artist must deal with the human world on many levels. Folk lore is only authentic when it is linked to man in his actual environment for it is this link that gives form to the work of an artist. The masks in the Bra Anancy series, carved in wood are very good technically. But is not Bra Anancy a creature of the imagination of African slaves who were brought to the West Indies? Did not these slaves guard shattered pieces from the mosaic of their culture from generation to generation in an epic struggle? Where are these people in the paintings and sculpture of Namba Roy?

West Indian culture was always linked to world culture though this link was itself a contradiction, a dialectic, full of complexity and yet quite clearly defined. This link remained anonymous for centuries while the European Imperialist was draining the energies of our culture with a ruthlessness that was unparalleled in recorded history.

The men who played the brilliant compositions of Bach and Beethoven in the courts of Europe, moved their deft fingers along piano keys made of ivory. Du Bois states that every tusk of ivory brought to the African coast for shipment cost the life of a Negro slave. This is a contradiction that Namba Roy would do well to look into.

The list of famous West Indian artists is a long one; Placido, Nicholas Guillen, Aime Cesaire, Georges Desportes the poets and writers, and Wilfredo Lamb, the painter. All of them saw the modern world from the essentially bare and naked sculpture of their own environments—they laid bare the contradiction of their people who were a part of the world and yet relegated to obscurity.

* * *

Namba Roy is a self-taught artist and in the light of this his achievement is remarkable. He spent many years mastering technique, and this technique shows itself to advantage in works like his wood carving of the "Spirit of the Night." Though this work at first gives the appearance of a surrealist abstraction, it is nearer to reality and the actual than his more romantic sculpture of the "Virgin and Child" which was praised by a ranking member of the British Clergy.

There is the stamp of Africa on some of his work; elongated ivory and wood carvings reminiscent of Ashanti sculpture. His Afro-West Indian work, however, tends to be too idealised. He could have dealt more effectively with the man and woman of the West Indies in their bare environments, exposed to a pitiless sun and to an even more pitiless Imperialist overlord.

I can only review his paintings briefly. One catches a glimpse of the perspective of Portinari the Brazilian painter in some of his figures and his use of colour veers more to Latin America than to Europe. All save one deals with religious themes, "The Crucifixion," "Simon of Cyrene" and others. There are many contemporary examples of crucifixions in the West Indies that would have given power to his paintings and perhaps some of the people who visited the gallery food for thought.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DEFENCE OF YOUTH RIGHTS

Caribbean News Reporter

When the young workers at Western Sugar Refinery in Amsterdam started figuring out why their working conditions, wages, and company-provided living conditions were bad, they came to the conclusion that young workers were facing similar problems elsewhere in the world.

They considered that the widening of the scope of investigation in the form of an international congress to discuss the problems of youth and to see how young people were struggling to better their conditions, would be the most effective way to tackle their own problems, rather than remaining in isolation.

* * *

This proposal they put forward to several international youth organisations, asking for such a conference to be sponsored. Of all the organisations approached only the World Federation of Democratic Youth responded to the call and decided to sponsor the International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth, which will take place in February next year.

Conference Preparations

Preparations for the Conference are already under way in Trinidad and Jamaica.

The Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council has begun discussions on the conditions which prevent the full development of the young people, while the JAMAICA YOUTH MOVEMENT has given its support to the Conference.

In LONDON, the Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) is undertaking a campaign designed to popularise the Conference among West Indians in London, and prepare the ground for a local conference sometime in January where West Indian delegates will be elected and mandated for the Vienna Conference.

A leaflet is in preparation for canvassing, and house meetings will be held at which small groups can discuss the conditions that affect young West Indians in Britain.

The preparations for the Conference and the Conference itself should do much to organise young West Indians in understanding and struggling for better conditions of life.

C.L.C. Dances

* * *

Dec. 6—DANCE

London School of Printing,
Carle Francis and his Caribbeans
7 - 11 p.m., Waterloo Tube, Admission 4/-

Dec. 20—DANCE

West Indian Band, Stockwell
Road Infants School, **BRIXTON,**
7 - 11 p.m., Admission 4/-

★ Jan. 3—GRAND DANCE ★

Carle Francis and his Caribbeans
Royal Hotel, Admission 5/-
Russell Square, 7 - 11 p.m.

Turk's Islands

continued from page 1

of West Indian bases approved by Winston Churchill in return for a few disused American gunboats.

Mr. A. A. Thorne (British Guiana) spoke of the effect of the U.S. bases on the population. **It had caused a deterioration in status and morals. U.S. forces had been told in B.G. to associate with the Europeans and if not enough Europeans were available then to associate with the Portuguese, but on no account with the coloured people or the Indians."**

Other speakers such as H. Wilson (Antigua) and the Hon. G. McIntosh (St. Vincent) went further and demanded that the 'agreements were in his opinion made under duress and therefore null and void', bringing about the debasement of women, the demoralisation of the people and the accentuation of racial feeling. These are the strings that possible recipients of POINT FOUR must look for in any implementation of the Truman doctrine.

World Platform

Federation of the West Indies with Self-government would see an immediate end to this violation of civil rights and re-introduction of inhuman conditions. The fact that we are absolutely deprived of UNITED NATIONS representation without being even vetoed, indicates the extent to which the chains bind us in isolation from the outer world. A Federation of Self-governing West Indies would demand U.N.O. representation and for this therefore, political independence is our FIRST goal on the basis of Caribbean unity. Even recognising the obvious threat of the U.S.A. veto to our entering U.N.O., we will fight to reach a world platform and towards an end shared by all humanity, the era of National Independence, Peace and Socialism.

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR PEACE

Caribbean News Reporter

The masses of the people of the world want Peace. That is undeniable. And if they unite in demanding peace, then there shall be no war.

The Peoples Congress for Peace, meeting in Vienna, December 12 - 17, will give the opportunity for the most diverse viewpoints to be expressed in an effort to resolve outstanding differences and arrive at a minimum common ground for agreement on preserving world peace.

" Where the diplomats have failed, the people must succeed " is the slogan of the Congress.

Preparations for the Congress are taking various forms in different countries. In Britain, ten thousand Peace Notebooks are circulating, in which people are asked to give their views with regard to the threat of war, and ways of averting war.

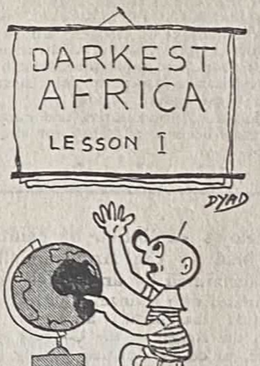
The Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) has given its support to the Congress, and is attempting through collecting sheets to raise enough money to send a delegate to Vienna.

A statement issued by the C.L.C. (L.B.) says: " Conscious of the vital necessity for WORLD PEACE, so that all colonials, especially WEST INDIANS may not be delayed or halted in our march towards National Liberation and SELF-GOVERNMENT, we have pledged ourselves to support this great Peoples Congress in OUR own self interest, and thus humanity as a whole."

At a meeting at the Holborn Hall in London on November 30th, West Indian readers of " Caribbean News " discussed the question of peace, particularly as it affects West Indians, and elected a delegate to represent them at the World Congress in Vienna.

"CN" FUND

We are making an
URGENT APPEAL
to our Readers to give generously to our Fund so as to keep " Caribbean News " coming out EVERY Month.
LET US HEAR FROM YOU !



Please Teacher; Can we have some light on ***Darkest Africa***

Personal

Dear Percy: I'll be seeing you at the CLC gala dance at the Royal Hotel on January 3rd. Make it a date—

Jenny

DON'T MISS

Leary Constantine's *Reminiscences on Sport*

in NEXT issue of " Caribbean News " Enlarged January issue of 8 Pages, with

PHOTOGRAPHS and SPECIAL FEATURES

★ ADVERTISING ★

Rates for advertising in " Caribbean News " 7/6 per column inch or 1/- per line; front page ad, 10/- per column inch. 7 words per line.

Published by Billy Strachan, 45 Brondesbury Villas, N.W.6.
X-Press Print, 397 Harrow Road, W.9.

FEDERATION ★
AND
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

Join the C.L.C. NOW

January 1953
Vol. 1 No. 3
6d.

CARIBBEAN
NEWS
BRAZIL
BRITISH GUIANA
VENEZUELA
PANAMA
TRINIDAD
BARBADOS
ST LUCIA
ANTIGUA
JAMAICA
BAHAMAS
NASSAU
BRITISH HONDURAS
GUATEMALA
E
S
W
N

U.S.A. LOOKS COVETOUSLY AT WEST INDIAN FEDERATION

BODY FORMED TO DUPE GUIANESE

From our Georgeton Correspondent

A NEW MOVEMENT, called the "Spiritual Movement Against Communism" was recently organised. Its prospectus states that "S.A.M.C. is a non-political, non-denominational organisation established by youths to oppose atheistic Communism. S.A.M.C. will carry out its aim by the following methods: (a) By publishing and distributing literature to show the evils of Atheistic Communism (b) By distributing true accounts of the suffering and misery—physical and mental, material and spiritual—of the people in Communist-dominated countries (c) By showing that it robs the individual of his God-given rights, including that to worship his Creator. If Freedom is to exist and Justice to reign we must play our part in this fight against Godlessness."

These are the people like Hon. Macnie (Sugar) who always talks about Russian Slave Camps, the eviction of workers from their homes in Russia and the alleged illegality of striking to cover up the poverty and misery of Guianese.

These are the same people who evict workers from the estates (where they have lived from birth) for taking part in trade union activities. Lionel Luckhoo, the President of the company union for sugar workers, said recently—"Lightning strikes are immoral".

LYTTELTON SUMMONS BRIEFING MEETING FOR MARCH/APRIL 1953

by **BILLY STRACHAN**

For over 300 years Empire propaganda has been directed at building London into a dignified reverence.

Foreign business could choose no more appropriate place to convene talks on Federal matters and give their orders to shivering puppets hypnotised into a state of subservience.

How far will this plan succeed?

The final decision as to which path for the Federal West Indian State will be taken at home in the West Indies. It is the small peasants and cultivators, united with small shop-keepers and the skilled workers organised in trade unions who are going to have the last word!

The smart-alecs of the late Labour Government jumped on the peoples' band wagon and tried to present the Federation demands as their hand-out. Multi-millionaires, Press and Radio have spent lavishly to sell this idea, and we have the dictates of one, Sir Hubert Rance, appearing as the wishes of 3 million West Indians.

This is the basis for the "briefing" meeting that Lyttleton has demanded.

More efficient exploitation

The sterility and mocking of the Rance proposals for Federation are too obvious.

Richard Hart, Secretary of the C.L.C. in Kingston, Jamaica (and at that time Vice-President of the T.U.C.) said:

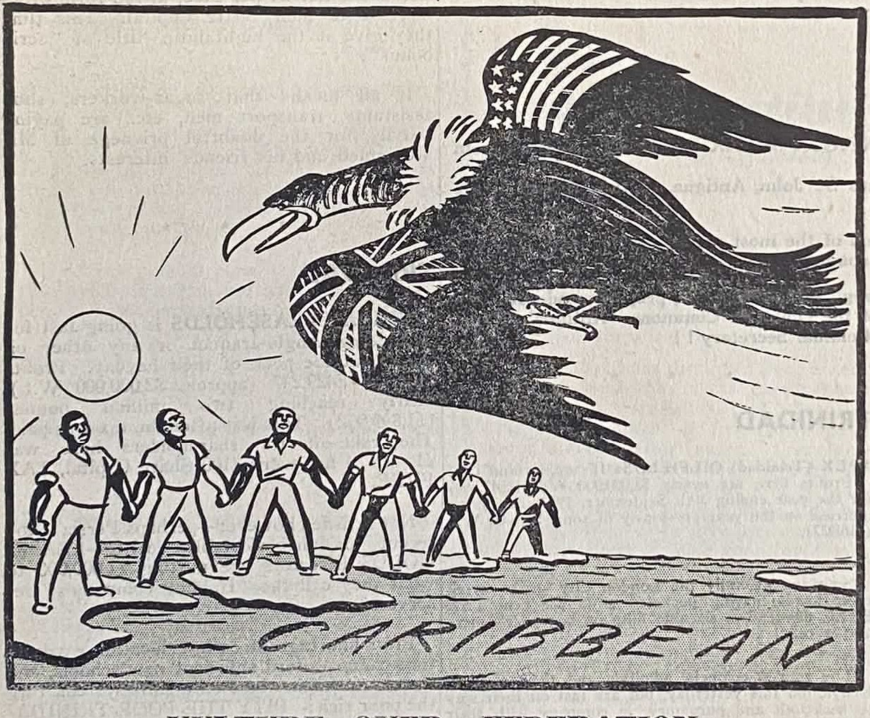
continued on back page

BANNED
and proud of it

We are informed that "Caribbean News" has been banned by the authorities in TRINIDAD

This can only be regarded as some indication of the terror the foreign rulers have of a paper that exposes their malpractices.

What better political thermometer than the imperialist ban!



VULTURE OVER FEDERATION

TRINIDAD Oil Belt Workers Demonstrate

Caribbean Peoples News Service

Demonstrations continue to take place in the Trinidad oil belt by the workers who are seeking a wage increase. Token strikes have already been organised. One being in Pt. Fontin and Point-a-Pierre, which lasted a day and have already given the oil bosses a taste of the workers determination to break their present grip on the workers pay packet.

Negotiations continue meanwhile and the oil barons have plainly asserted their intention to give only a 6½ cents rise. This has been rejected and over 16,000 persons including the workers of Point-a-Pierre demonstrated in San Fernando with the workers of that town to show their resentment against the tight-fisted tactics of oil employers.

IMPRESSION ON MEETING ADAMS

by

Hon. E.T. Joshua, M.L.C.

Kingstown, St. Vincent

IT was a fortunate lesson for us of the various West Indian islands who met Hon. Grantley Adams, C.M.G., Q.C., M.C.P., to hold preparatory discussions with him for the full sessions of the Caribbean Labour Congress which inevitably must be held, whether or not, the hoped for Council meeting of Mr. Adams materialises in Jamaica. The meeting was unfortunate in that no one would have actually thought that the circular signed by Mr. Adams to the Secretary of the C.L.C. was merely the mild tokens of his deep-seated desire for dismemberment of the Caribbean Labour Congress and the destruction of its LONDON BRANCH.

LIKE a few other such leaders in the Caribbean he sees greater sources of personal power by Caribbean dis-unity. It was unfortunate to see how West Indian leaders after receiving all which the people could possibly give, turn their forces to work against their aims and aspirations.

West Indian Deserter

This meeting was fortunate in that for once we knew independent West Indian leaders fighting on for a free and united West Indies will be obliged to continue to fight without the aid of Mr. Adams. It was fortunate for us that we were able to place Mr. Adams on the spot when he admitted that he saw no chance of a Caribbean unity, because of affiliations in the Congress, to different world bodies, such as the W.F.T.U. and the I.C.F.T.U.

National Leaders United

SOME of the leading trade unionists and labour leaders attending talks with Adams were Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, M.L.C., President, T.U.C., and Parliamentary Leader P.P.P., British Guiana, Mr. John Rojas, President of the Oil Field Workers Trade Union, Mr. Quentin O'Connor, Secretary of the T.U.C., and also the Federated Workers Trade Union and John La Rose, Secretary of the West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad, Richard Hart, Secretary of the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS, myself and others. In the meeting at the Assembly Hall, Bridgetown, Barbados, to discuss the threat seen in the circular letter of the President, Mr. Adams gave what appears to be his own opinion of the inevitability of a split in the affiliations of the C.L.C.

Hon. E.T.Joshua

THE main contribution to the discussion with Mr. Adams was that we were all assembled from our various islands to tell him, as President of the C.L.C., that we do not see any inevitable split and further, that we were unprepared to tolerate a dismemberment of this august body. **We also made it clear that we loathe to see the division of West Indian workers into parcels for convenience, and because of international affiliations.** We could not see how affiliation to two world bodies could affect West Indian organisations in the C.L.C. or its LONDON BRANCH.

THE latest achievement of the C.L.C. branch in London was the strongest protest against a foul and sacrilegious motion put by Hon. H. F. Young, of the St. Vincent Legislature, against myself as an elected member of that body. This motion was foiled by a wave of protest of which the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH was the most effective, being on the spot.

MR. ADAMS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD A DUTY TO PERFORM EVEN BEYOND HIS WILL BY THE ADVENTUROUS PATH HE IS PURSUING TOWARDS CARIBBEAN DISUNITY.

It was told to Mr. Adams as a part of the contribution that we invariably find leaders made by the will of the people and after it was apparent to them that imperial titles were far better than the fight for independence, the workers were known to be left exposed by them to the murderous fire of every new model rifle of the imperial armoury, even in a constitutional clamour for better working conditions.

Mr. Adams wanted time to sleep over the matter and to consider the proposition put forward by Secretary Hart and the delegation. It is not likely that Mr. Adams may change his mind as he has gone too far in accepting the orders of the regional organisation of the I.C.F.T.U. (ORIT) and its pecuniary connections and implications. He has the headquarters under his protection in Barbados. Frank Walcott and Marcono, Secretary of this Adams-Walcott-Marcono set-up will have its resultant repercussions as the time comes more exigent for West Indian unity.

£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

TREASURE CHEST

£ WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

by our Financial Correspondent

ANTIGUA

Profits From Sugar Rise Over 400%

What a grab! What a haul!

Within one year the nett profit of the ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY has risen from £6,088 to £28,323.

Now we see why the troops were flown into St. John, Antigua, in 1951 at such short notice. Worth protecting, eh?

There is no doubt now, not even in the mind of the most crooked dupe, as to why the BRITISH ARMY and NAVY stand by in our country.

The Antigua Sugar Factory is owned and registered in London, prepares and publishes their accounts within the financial legislation of the House of Commons. Antigua's representative there is Capt. Oliver Lyttelton, Tory Colonial Secretary ! !

* * *

St. KITTS

The owners in Britain of the St. KITTS (London) SUGAR FACTORY are also doing well.

The nett profit for the year is £39,712 AFTER all charges including taxation !

The directors are proposing to increase the distribution of the loot from 17½ per cent tax free to 20 per cent, tax free.

When this is formally approved (as it will be) the directors will have available to "carry forward" £110,065, which is over and above what has already been shared out over the years of exploitation. and misery.

Your move now, Mr. Bradshaw.

* * *

TRINIDAD

APEX (Trinidad) OILFIELDS: It's up, up and UP!

Profits here are nearly $3,000,000 W.I. (£547,660) for the year ending 30th September, 1952. This is an increase on the year previously of some $85,000 W.I. (£16,927).

Smirking gleefully the London City sheiks wring their hands, having pocketed a 45 per cent TAX FREE dividend, a sizeable fillip on last year's mere 40 per cent!

The retired colonels, admirals and their class in Kenya, did this yesterday, but are fast on their way to sackcloth and purgatory, in company with their "fellahs" from Anglo-Iranian ! !

BRITISH GUIANA

BOOKER BROTHERS, McCONNELL & CO., are seizing £3 . 10 . 0 for every £100 they invested several years ago. They call this an "interim dividend". But in addition, Bookers shareholders are also claiming AND GETTING another £4 per £100, in the form of an increase in their Share Capital. This time they give it the highfalutin' title of "scrip bonus".

It all means that sugar-workers, shop assistants, transport men, etc., are paying heavily for the doubtful privilege of Mr. McConnell and his friends' interests.

* * *

TRINIDAD

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS is going fast for outbidding Anglo-Iranian or any other oil moguls at the peak of their heyday. Profits rose by £429,247 (approx. $2,000,000 W.I.), nearly reaching two million pounds (£1,899,952). This was after the tax was paid. The rake-off for shareholders here was £16 . 13 . 4 for every £100 Share Capital, TAX FREE.

Not satisfied however—perhaps Persia is too recent an uncomfortable reality—LEASEHOLDS Directors are putting £1,000,000 to what they call the "Holding company's" reserves.

From shortage of cash, Education expenditure cannot afford sufficient new schools, and classes are maintained on a shift system. Pity the poor rich? PITY THE POOR TRINIDADIANS !

★ Greetings ★

Jamaica Youth Movement

The Young People of Jamaica, organised in the Jamaica Youth Movement, send you greetings and felictations on the inauguration of your monthly news-magazine "CARIBBEAN NEWS".

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the London Branch of the C.L.C. on its valuable "on-the-spot" work since its inception in 1948, in the struggle for West Indian Independence and Freedom. We regard "Caribbean News" as another important milestone on the road which can only lead to Victory.

Heartiest congratulations and sincere good wishes on your new venture.

(signed) Harry Drayton,
General Secretary.

Greetings with a Jingle from Birmingham Branch

"CONGRATULATIONS to the Committee for having launched CARIBBEAN NEWS.

"It is indeed a splendid start in another of the many steps taken by the C.L.C., LONDON BRANCH, on behalf of West Indians in Britain to further strengthen the fight on behalf of all Colonial peoples for National Independence.

Let me wish, on behalf of the Birmingham Branch and its members, long life and strength to 'Caribbean News'.

PLEASE ACCEPT FIVE SHILLINGS POSTAL ORDER ENCLOSED AS CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR C.N. FUND.

HENRY GUNTER,
CHAIRMAN."

People's Educational Organisation (Jamaica)

The People's Educational Organisation sends you fraternal greetings on the start of your monthly newspaper "Caribbean News".

This new weapon which you have forged will be of invaluable assistance in clarifying for our people the important issues with which we in the Caribbean are confronted, in our struggles against Imperialism and for Self-Government and Freedom.

We salute you on your record of Service to the Caribbean cause, and wish you every success in your new venture.

(signed) Harry Drayton,
General Secretary.

* * *

"CN" FUND

* * *

THE Birmingham comrades know the kind of greetings we like, with a contribution from Comrade Gunter to the CN Fund.

WE would like to see many more such greetings rolling in, swelling the Fund and putting life-blood into "Caribbean News," which needs EVERY penny.

Send contributions to "CN" FUND,
45 Brondesbury Villas, London, N.W.6.

You NEED "CN", and "CN" needs YOU.

Editorial

CARIBBEAN NEWS
Issued Monthly
Address:
45 Brondesbury Villas,
London, - N.W.6

Face the Future with Confidence

A New Year dawns for Mankind.

Amid the reflections of the past and resolutions for the New Year, let us take a glance at the path the peoples have traversed.

On the one hand, the forces of Imperialism and Colonial Plunder have endeavoured to step-up their preparations for war and for new onslaughts on the colonial people.

But on the other hand, the forces of the People for Peace and Independence have also grown, and as they develop it gets more difficult for the Foreign Armies to rule in Malaya, Vietnam, Korea, Egypt, Persia, Tunisia and elsewhere.

The Lion will Rise

Political fakers would like to keep the ordinary people asleep, oblivious of the mounting struggles of their brothers in other lands. The past year has seen, however, the further development of the awakening process of the colonial people, despite the fakers.

In treading on the Colonial Peoples the world over, the Foreign Bosses are finding that what they have so contemptuously stepped on is a powerful lion growing impatient.

The West Indian Lion is also growing restless.

West Indians are overcoming slumber and confusion, and are devolping well organised, correctly oriented bodies and parties to take FORWARD the whole movement for Independence.

* * *

The newly formed West Indian Independence Party in Trinidad is but the latest reforcement to join the ranks of the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana and the People's Educational Organisation of Jamaica, representing as they do the most advanced sections in three of the largest and decisive territories in the West Indies.

Colonial Tidings

Under Colonisation, the New Year brings nothing but rising prices for food, rising unemployment, increased poverty for the masses of West Indians.

It usually brings bigger profits for the Foreign Companies.

The People must change this cruel injustice so that every New Year will invariably see new heights attained in a New Life of rising standards of living, more food, clothes, houses fit to live in, instead of tents and ramshackle huts.

Bright Perspectives

Characteristic of the world to-day is the gloom with which imperialist spokesmen look to the future, running through all their conferences, reports and learned books. This reflects the decline of the Imperialist system, as, for them, the future is indeed gloomy.

But for the West Indian people, the most glorious period in their history is yet to come. It cannot be othewise, so let us greet the New Year with confidence in our ability to win and build a full and brilliant life with human dignity and comfort.

THE FUTURE IS OURS, WE CANNOT LOSE!

Learie Constantine

Writes — Explains

The Editor:

I have not forgotten my promise to write something on Sport for the Caribbean News. Perhaps you will remember that at the time I was engaged on my Bar Finals and could not spare the time needed for preparing this article.

Now that I am through I have taken on two commissions which necessitated my being away from home, i.e., a lecture tour in the north of England lasting about a week, after which I must get ready to fly to Ceylon where I shall be for about three months. With the Christmas season almost upon us and with my other extra activities you will appreciate there is little time for doing this work.

I crave your further indulgence until my return from the East.

Wishing the Congress and the new venture all success.

Your sincerely,
(Signed) Learie Constantine.

BEST WISHES

"Caribbean News" extends most sincere good wishes to its readers for the New Year.

We wish to express a special heartfelt gratitude to readers who sell "Caribbean News"—those indefatigable supporters who do the job of selling on the street and on the knocker, winning new readers and boosting sales, which in turn allows the paper to grow in circulation at a steady pace.

Without such active supporters CARIBBEAN NEWS could not face the future confidently and increase in size to eight pages.

But we cannot afford to stand still. We must keep on progressing for the sake of the aims we hold dear.

We therefore appeal to readers again to consider how they can help: (1) in making bigger sales, and (2) expanding the "C.N." FUND by contributions.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly stated in the editorial column of the December issue that purchasers of small quantities of the paper for sale would get a 40% discount. This is incorrect, for it applies only to purchasers of large quantities in the West Indies, where the discount is about 33%. We ask readers to note the error.

★ Greetings ★

British Guiana (P.P.P.)

It is with deep pleasure that I write extending my best wishes to the editor and staff of the new publication "Caribbean News". Your first issue is of immense value and should go far in co-ordinating the freedom movement in the British Caribbean.

We, in the British West Indies, are constantly threatened by the splitting tactics of the enemies of the working class, who find willing stooges in the "so-called" friends of the workers. Your publication will help nail the lies and show the way for the future people's democracy in these parts.

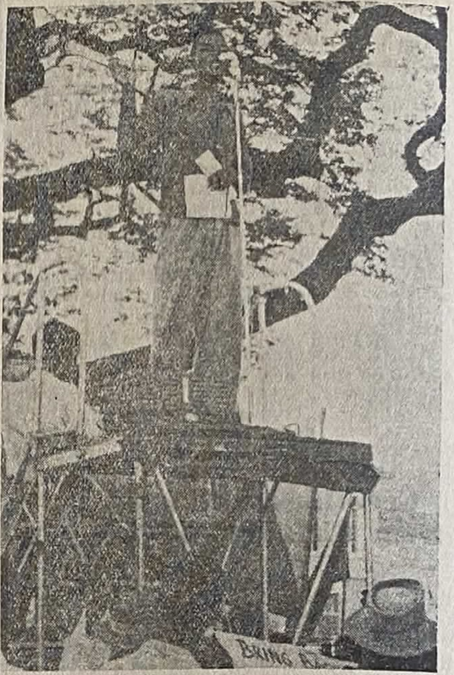
(signed) Janet Jagan, Secretary,
People's Progressive Party.

CIVIL LIBERTIES in British Guiana

by Janet Jagan

Secretary, People's Progressive Party

IN British Guiana, the only British possession on the South American mainland, there are many examples of infringements on the civil liberties of the people. In the last few years there has been a tremendous change in the attitude of the people. From a disinterested outlook on world and local politics they have now become a vital and militant force.



Sydney King, Assistant Secretary, People's Progressive Party and member of the B.G. Peace Committee addresses a mass gathering at Parade Ground, Georgetown.

This upsurge of the masses has been manifested by a vigorous objection to colonial rule and by increased demands for improved conditions. Last year the Governor was booed as he left Legislative Council because of an unpopular tax on sweet drinks. Several people were arrested despite the fact that the crowd was not disorderly.

THE Government recently introduced a Bill in the Legislative Council to give the Commissioner of Police the right to grant or disallow permission to use loud-speakers in British Guiana. This would mean that the sole authority to determine if a public meeting could be held with a loud speaker would be the Commissioner of Police. Street corner meetings using loud speaker equipment have been very frequent in recent years, and this is an obvious attempt to restrict the number of public meetings. Meetings of protest and picketing before the Legislative Council Chambers on the day the Bill was up for debate succeeded in delaying the passing of the Bill, which has now gone into Committee.

Police kill workers

IN 1948, after the police killed five sugar workers who were participating in a 4½ months sugar strike for better wages and conditions, the Sugar Estate authorities served trespass notices on the leaders of the strike movement. In British Guiana the sugar estates lease 88,873 acres of land and own 82,205 acres.

The trespass notices therefore prohibit trade unionists and leaders from entering most of that land. One of those receiving trespass notices was Hon. Cheddi Jagan, Member of the Legislative Council for Central Demerara. In Central Demerara there are six sugar estates occupying 26,072 acres of land and housing 18,099 people (1946 census figures). This Legislator is thereby prevented from visiting his constituents, seeing schools and sanitary conditions and holding public meetings in this area. In 1950, he attended a meeting at the invitation of his constituents, in one of the sugar estates, and was subsequently sued for $5,000 damages by the estates.

SUGAR estate labourers, in most cases, are resident on the plantations. This is a hangover system from the times of slavery and the later indentured method of employing labourers from India. The estate houses or ranges are owned by the sugar proprietors. Most families have been resident in these buildings for several generations, some since they were transported from India. Yet, for participating in strikes or for trade union activities, workers are evicted from these houses with 2 weeks' notice. In a strike called last month by the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, nine workers and their entire families were evicted from houses they had occupied from birth.

IN March, 1952, a motion was approved in the Legislative Council, moved by a nominated member, to "prohibit the entry of books, films and pamphlets of a subversive nature and contrary to public interest" into British Guiana. The mover of the motion is the second person who, defeated at the last general elections, was nominated to the Legislative Council by the Governor. It is understood that Goverment is now drafting the legislation for the enactment of this motion. There has been a vigorous opposition by the people to the motion which would restrict the reading material of the population. The Customs Department just lately refused to allow the entry of a shipment of books imported by Hon. Cheddi Jagan from England.

Travel restricted

SINCE February of this year, various Governments in the West Indies have been restricting the right to travel. The record is as follows: (1) Janet Jagan, Secretary of the B.G. People's Progressive Party and Cheddi Jagan, Legislator of B.G. were deemed prohibited immigrants by the Government of Trinidad and Grenada; (2) Richard Hart, of the Jamaica Trade Union Congress and Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress was prevented from entering Trinidad on two occasions, one being only for a few hours in transit to Barbados; (3) in April, Billy Strachan of the London Branch of the Caribbean Labour Congress and Ferdinand Smith, of the World Federation of Trade Unions, both Jamaica born, were declared prohibited immigrants in Trinidad and were not allowed to enter British Guiana. Later, Ferdinand Smith was refused permission to land in Trinidad in transit to Barbados, and also banned in Barbados. (4) The Government of Trinidad also banned Ken Hill, the then Mayor of Kingston, but later allowed him to enter Trinidad in transit to Barbados to attend an I.C.F.T.U. Conference. Despite protests in the West Indies and abroad, these bans have not been lifted.

Halls refused

POLITICAL groups in British Guiana find difficulty in obtaining halls for meetings. Some school buildings, controlled by various religious denominations, refuse to grant the use of the buildings for certain political meetings. In Kitty Village, the Council recently turned down an application from the People's Progressive Party to continue to use their Welfare Hall for meeting purposes. The Kitty group of the Party had been using the hall for several years before. Skedon Corentyne, the manager of the local cinema, agreed to allow the People's Progressive Party to hold a meeting. On the morning of the meeting, he withdrew his permission. The sugar estate authorities from the nearby estate had cautioned the manager; thus the change of attitude.

OVER and over again, trade unions and parties, when applying for permission to demonstrate in the city, have made requests to be allowed to have music. The Commissioner of Police has always refused to grant this request to have a band at a demonstration. Those who are acquainted with the West Indies know the great attraction music has for the people. Nevertheless, demonstrators sing lustily to make the long marches around the city lively and colourful.

Another Bill came before the Legislative Council last month designed primarily to restrict organisations from the public collection of money. It is obviously aimed at trade unions which might go to the public to collect money for strike funds. Under this Bill only religious, philanthropic or charitable organisa-

continued on page 7

★ FLASH ★

Councillor Sidney King, Member of the Georgetown (British Guiana) City Council, whose picture appears on this page, arrived in England on Monday, December 15th, and departed the following day for Vienna to attend the Peoples Congress for Peace.

* * *

Hear

SYDNEY KING

Asst. Sec. P.P.P., British Guiana

Sunday, January 18th.

2-30 p.m.

HOLBORN HALL

Grays Inn Road Tube: Chancery Lane

GROWING UNITY IN TRINIDAD

by "THE LINK"

The 21st October, 1952, may well prove to be a memorable day in the history of Trinidad. On that day before a crowded meeting at the Trinidad Public Library, Port-of-Spain, the West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad and Tobago was formed.

This new party was formed by the united action of the two most militant Trinidadian labour organisations, the Workers Freedom Movement led by Jim Barrett, John La Rose and Lennox Pierre, and the Trades Union Congress under the leadership of Quinton O'Connor and John Rojas.

Mass Meeting

A few days later the party held its first mass meeting in Woodford Square before a crowd of more than 2,000. Extending its activities among the most important section of the community, the workers, the party held another rally in San Fernando on October 29th, and at the end of this meeting scores of people were lining up to join the Party.

In keeping with the finest traditions of international working class solidarity the Party members in Port-of-Spain demonstrated outside the Venezuelan Consulate protesting at the recent murder of Luie Penada and other fascist activities of the Venezuelan military junta now in power.

In an admirably written Provisional Statement the policy of the W.I.I.P. is given and a lucid and practical fundamental Programme is laid down. Its basic policy is formulated thus:

> **"to struggle for the abolition, once and for all, of British imperialist rule, for the establishment of an Independent Trinidad & Tobago in a Federated Independent West Indies."**

With firm and precise words it describes the Party's outlook:—

> **"Our Party stands squarely in the world proletarian anti-imperialist front with the peoples fighting for national liberation. Our Party is Socialist in outlook."**

Patriots

These are the words of true patriots. Any political leader who hesitates about his position to the opposing camps of Peace and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, and the Warmongers and Imperialists headed by the United States, is in effect betraying those who regard him as leader by confusing them as to the real culprits responsible for their condition, and whom will be their truest friend and staunchest ally.

In giving the conditions necessary for Independence the statement says, " . . . (the) Party shall strive to unite the forces of the working class leading the other revolutionary elements of the people including the peasants, progressive intellectuals, and liberal sections of the capitalist class."

Having a fundamental Programme is always a very good pointer to the seriousness of a political party. Parties under the leadership of political opportunists, such as the British Labour Party, always shirk having a fundamental programme. Just in case they may be tied down to carrying out that policy at some future date.

Programme

The West Indian Independence Party lists its Provisional Fundamental Programme under eleven heads: Government, Land and Agriculture, Labour Wages and Prices, Industry, Trade, Housing, Health, Education, Social Security, Public Works and Communications, Civil Rights. A few of the main points are:

> "Distribution of unused land of major estates and Crown lands to poor and landless peasants.
> "Unemployment relief or jobs for all.
> "The local job for the local man in all branches and at all levels of Public Services and Administration as well as of Industry, on the basis of the highest merit and best qualification.
> "Ultimate nationalisation of Oil, Sugar and Asphalt.
> "Free elementary, intermediate and secondary education with a West Indian orientation.
> "Abolition or amendment of all laws and practices which jeopardise freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom of worship and other basic freedoms."

Such a Statement and Programme is sure to come and with hard work and patient explanations, the support of all honest Trinidadians.

Representative Committee

The first Party Conference will be held in April, 1953. In the meanwhile, the Party is under the guidance of Lennox Pierre, Provisional Chairman, John La Rose, General Secretary, Osmund Fletcher, Dep. General Secretary, Cyril Gonzales, Asst, General Secretary, Quinton O'Connor, Treasurer. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Jim Barrett, John Commissiong, Millicent Corbin, Dudley Mahon, Simeon Alexander, Ramrattan Madoe, Rita Scott, John Poon and Lucius Mondezie.

C.L.C. (London Branch) MEETING DISCUSSES

PEACE and the WEST INDIES

Caribbean News Reporter

At the November General Meeting of the C.L.C., London Branch, the question of Peace and the West Indies was the main topic of discussion.

Comrade Ranji Chandisingh, President of the C.L.C., in the Chair, in introducing the subject, presented a picture of a world arming to the teeth and challenging mankind with a ghastly fate. Comrade Chandisingh described the suffering which the Korean people were experiencing in the Imperialist dress rehearsal for World War 3. He told of the horrors of Napalm and Bacteriological warfare going on there and mentioned the Chemical warfare which the British Imperialists are waging in Malaya.

He pointed out that the choice between peace or war was open to mankind; peace, with construction, production of plenty and happiness, and war, with destruction and misery. In addition, he outlined the broad composition of the Congress for Peace and the fact that its decisions were not binding on participants.

On the Barricades

One comrade from Santo Domingo said that to talk of peace was a waste of time; we must be ready to sacrifice blood to gain freedom. He pointed out that the people of Kenya were sacrificing blood to achieve their freedom, and he said that the weak must make themselves as strong as the oppressors in order to defeat them.

Comrade Strachan in his remarks at the meeting said that the comrade obviously did not understand the meaning of the struggle for peace. He agreed that fighting for national independence is a positive right in fighting against imperialist aggression, and with him that the people of Kenya and Malaya were contributing to world peace. Such struggles, he said, were in fact weakening imperialism, which was bent on world war and conquest. He said that we should give all support we can to them as they were sincerely desiring peace, but not at the expense of their freedom.

Who gets the kick

Comrade Simms said that the imperialists were fond of saying that they were preparing a war machine for a war against Russia, but in fact this machine was also for war against the colonial people, because it is seen to-day that the wars which are being fought by these armies in creation are being fought against colonial people at the present time, Kenya, Malaya, Viet Nam, Tunis, Egypt, etc., So it is obvious that our duty in the first place is to fight against the establishment of large armies, for peace against the drive to war.

He further said that he did not disagree that one should be willing to sacrifice blood, but now is the time that we should sacrifice our time and effort to prevent this world war. He urged that support should be given the C.L.C. and all progressive organisations fighting for peace.

Trickery

Comrade C. Taylor pointed out a subtle method by which the sugar estates under the pretext of assisting greater local food production, got Jamaican workers during the last war to cultivate grass for them free of cost. This was done by giving the people land to plant food crops of corn and peas. He said that after the reaping of the crops the workers were given fresh land and told that in order to rest and refertilise the land they should plant grass on their previous plots. These plots were left as grass fields afterwards. The result was that at the end of the war, the estates had got extensive grass fields at their disposal free of charge. He wanted to show that it is the big capitalists in the colonies and elsewhere who really profit from war, and it was in the interests of West Indians, the struggle for peace.

Back to the Cave

Comrade Cazeau said that the object of the peace movement was to prevent the unleashing of world war three. He said that all civilisation depends upon an industrial substructure and in an atomic world war this industrial substructure would be irreparably damaged. It was necessary to prevent this destruction if humanity is to be preserved from possible extinction. He pointed out that eminent scientists and statesmen have spoken of the catastrophic consequences for humanity if this world war three is allowed to occur.

He quoted Professor Einstein as saying "I do not know what weapons will be used in world war three, but this I do know, that in world war number four men will fight with clubs." Professor Fineberg said "This atomic war may very well be man's last." It may very well bring down the curtain on the human drama." Pandit Nehru is quoted also as saying "If such a large scale atomic war occurs it would mean the death of over one thousand million people—half the world's population, which would mean the physical and moral collapse of humanity."

Comrade Cazeau went on "People are a greater force than weapons. If people do not man the guns there could be no war." He quoted Comrade Mao Tse Tung's prophetic words, which were "In the final analysis it will not be the bomb that destroys the people, it will be the people who destroy the bomb."

WAR IMMORAL

Other speakers pointed out the immorality of the issue before West Indians and other colonial people. They were being pressed by the imperialist ruling powers into fighting wars of suppression against their colonial cousins who were fighting for the liberation of their countries from foreign rule. Such wars, the speakers pointed out, were actually going on to-day in Vietnam, Malaya and Kenya.

Arising out of the discussion, it became quite clear to all West Indians present that their struggle for independence was indissolubly linked with the world wide struggle for peace.

Dr. Holland was accepted as delegate to the Peoples Congress for Peace held in Vienna, December 12th - 17th.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SLAVE LABOUR in KENYA...

by Rolly Simms

Since the recent developments in Kenya have shown to the world that the African people are prepared to fight for the achievement of their national independence and a better way of life, numerous facts of the bestial regime that oppresses the people of Kenya have been brought to light.

We reproduce below a photograph of a forced labour order which in Kenya and throughout East Africa is a common method of obtaining labour. Britain was forced to admit in UNO (Paris, 1949) after a dramatic exposure by the Polish delegate that there were 75,000 Africans in Kenya, Uganda and Gambia labouring under compulsion.

This is only one type of the barbarous treatment meted out to Africans "for their benefit." By means of a Poll Tax on all African males of around 15 to 22 shillings per year and crowding them into a smaller area of their country, the white planters and industrialists ensures that starvation and the penalties for non-payment fo Poll Tax will force the African to accept any price for his work.

The Africans in Kenya have been forced on to 50,000 square miles of their country, i.e., an African must exist on less than **six** acres of land. Land which is often not the most fertile in Kenya and is usually waterless. The 3,000 European farmers have 16,500 square miles or 5½ square miles per European. N.B.—one square mile equals 640 acres. The "White Highlands" has been exclusively reserved by law for the use of Europeans. This area has the best rainfall and the most fertile soil. It has often been stated by way of excuse that the European farms better than the African and therefore his grabbing of the land in the long run benefits the entire community. This is refuted by no less a source than the "Nairobi Daily Chronicle" which stated that "less than one-tenth of the land held by Europeans was under cultivation" (1.4.50).

Sweated Labour

Leslie Hale, the member of Parliament who recently visited Kenya, gave an example to the House of Commons on 16/12/52 of how the white farmers get labour for their farms, "I have in my hand a contract which is in a printed form with typewritten insertions in the blanks made under the Resident Labourers Ordinance, attested by a magistrate for the protection of the native. "It is a contract for three years which cannot be determined by the worker. It provides he shall have a piece of land not more than two and a half acres. It doesn't provide any home, but provides that the worker should be supplied with building materials.

"It doesn't provide him with any food. It explicitly says "no posho" (an African maize).

"It restricts the crops he can grow on his little bit of land to maize, potatoes and other vegetables. It refuses to allow him any cattle, donkeys, or goats, and says he can own up to 15 sheep if he can afford them.

"If he has a lad who attains the age of 16 years the lad must work for the employer, or can be ordered to leave the premises and go elsewhere.

"And the contract can be extended up to five years in the name of the employer, who is Mr. Michael Blundell, the leader of the European members in the Legislative Council.

"I think the time for being moderate in this matter has gone. I want to say that this agreement imposes conditions as bad as any in the wicked days of slavery."

Need Our Support

These shameful events in Kenya should arouse the fiercest determination in the heart of every West Indian to resist the foul policy of British Imperialism with all our strength and in every way and any way possible.

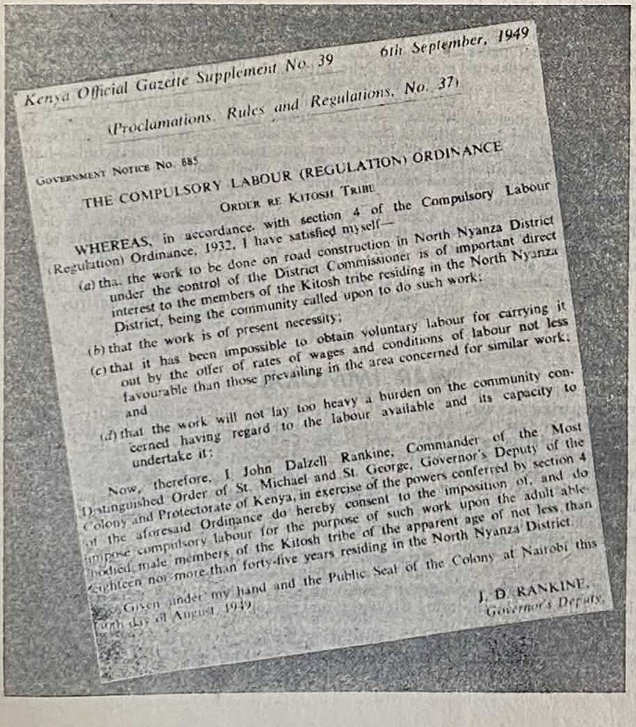
Organisations in the West Indies will realise that the best way to assist the people of Kenya is to double our efforts for our National Independence.

Protest resolutions and demonstrations have always been an exceedingly effective way of showing solidarity and letting the entire world know where the West Indian Labour movement stands.

Boycott Colonial Office Functions

West Indians in London have the glorious opportunity of letting Lyttelton and his henchmen know exactly how we and the West Indians at home feel about Kenya. Representatives of the League of Coloured Peoples, West Indian Students Union, West African Students Union, Gold Coast Union, Sierre Leone Students Union, and the Nigeria Union (London) have already decided to boycott all functions organised by the Colonial Office. Members of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) should need no further guidance on this issue. It should be our duty to expose and hold up to ridicule any West Indian so spineless and greedy that he would eat and drink with those responsible for the atrocities being committed against the African people in Kenya to-day.

West Indians in London should go further, and join freely with those sections of the British Labour Movement who genuinely detest the foul deeds being committed in Kenya in their name and ensure that British Imperialism from now on will receive a succession of hard blows overseas as well as in Britain.



Kenya Official Gazette Supplement No. 39 *6th September, 1949*

(Proclamations, Rules and Regulations, No. 37)

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 885

THE COMPULSORY LABOUR (REGULATION) ORDINANCE

ORDER RE KITOSH TRIBE

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 4 of the Compulsory Labour (Regulation) Ordinance, 1932, I have satisfied myself—

(*a*) that the work to be done on road construction in North Nyanza District under the control of the District Commissioner is of important direct interest to the members of the Kitosh tribe residing in the North Nyanza District, being the community called upon to do such work;

(*b*) that the work is of present necessity;

(*c*) that it has been impossible to obtain voluntary labour for carrying it out by the offer of rates of wages and conditions of labour not less favourable than those prevailing in the area concerned for similar work; and

(*d*) that the work will not lay too heavy a burden on the community concerned having regard to the labour available and its capacity to undertake it:

Now, therefore, I John Dalzell Rankine, Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor's Deputy of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the aforesaid Ordinance do hereby consent to the imposition of, and do impose compulsory labour for the purpose of such work upon the adult able-bodied male members of the Kitosh tribe of the apparent age of not less than eighteen nor more than forty-five years residing in the North Nyanza District.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony at Nairobi this [illegible] day of August, 1949.

J. D. RANKINE,
Governor's Deputy.

Slave labour ordinance of Kenya Government which forces Africans to work on Public construction

---

. . and in USA

God's own Country

(Caribbean Peoples News Service)

Three West Indians recently returned from the U.S.A., that—"Heaven on Earth". They had gone there with the intention of improving their standard of life and to escape the poverty-stricken plight of their own homeland. Now that they have seen the deplorable conditions which exist in the U.S.A. they have returned rather than be subjected to the inhuman treatment from the Americans. They slept on cots without pillows, a few feet away from a cesspit. For breakfast, they received one slice of bread and a piece of cheese "so thin that you could see through it". Lunch was a corned beef sandwich and a "sweet drink". And at night the menu was boiled corn, peas, one potato and a cup of unsweetened coffee.

Grim Experience

This mythical "Heaven on Earth", this wonderful "land of opportunity" is daily being exposed to wider sections of our people as a country within which abounds vast slave labour camps–slave labour with all its horrors. No amount of lies from the U.S. captialists about "equal opportunity" can change the grim experience of British Caribbean agricultural workers in the U.S.A.

The artist's role in the struggle for freedom

Poetry and the West Indies

by Jan Carew

Art is so closely linked to the fundamental rhythms of life that any movement for national liberation must of necessity throw up new art forms. The artist's role in the struggle for freedom does not lie in a subjective recording of the tremors in the pulse of this struggle—the artist must be a part of the blood stream that regulates the rhythms of this pulse.

The West Indian struggle for national liberation is no exception to this rule. To-day we have West Indian artists emerging in every field of the arts, poetry, the novel, music and drama. In this article we will deal with poetry, for poetry is the natural dialogue of resurgent man.

* * *

What is poetry? Is it something that the worker should hold in disdain as a plaything for leisured classes? Is it something mystic that only a few can understand? These questions can be answered by pointing to the origins of poetry. Poetry has its roots in the beginnings of language.

It is Professor Thompson's theory that language grew out of the necessity of primitive man to co-ordinate the movements of the work act. He substantiates this theory by pointing to tribal dances which imitate the work act, e.g., the tilling of a field with a hoe. The movements of these dances are co-ordinated by a rhythmic chanting. The importance of this theory is that it lays bare the link between labour and dialogue and it is in this original dialogue that poetry has its roots. Poetry preceded spoken language and even to-day the language of primitive peoples is full of poetic images. The American-Indian of Guiana calls Mount Koraima "Koraima of the red rock, the ever fertile source of streams".

The West Indian, in his striving to give articulation to his immediate and pressing human needs: nationhood, freedom from want, liberation from the weight of a terrible halter imposed on his life by strangers, cannot afford to ignore the creative aspects of his struggle. One of the leading West Indian poets, Wilson Harris, says: "When the exploited man becomes aware of original rhythms within the oppression of his world, contradictions are bared in a manner, terrifying and yet containing the secret of change . . . "

* * *

The history of the Americas is one with many records of the artist fighting side by side with his people. There are many contemporary examples of this: Neruda of Chile, Amado of Brazil, Cesaire of Martinique, Crozco of Mexico, and Martin Carter, the leading revolutionary poet of the British West Indies whose work should be more widely read.

The main purpose of this article is to encourage readers to develop an interest in poetry, our poetry and poetry as a whole. There are many West Indian poets to-day, most of whose work is valueless, but there are a few whose stature as poets cannot be challenged anywhere in the world. Poetry is an exacting art. Shelley says: "Poets are mirrors that reflect gigantic shadows of things to come . . . " and to-day the poet's work is more difficult than ever. He must penetrate through to the fundamental rhythms of life for his work to be genuine. The figure of West Indian man is to-day submerged under tides of mythology and obscured behind veils of half truths. In his struggle he is rising above these tides and tearing these veils asunder. This whole can touch any deep chords of response in his people's hearts. Man and the artist are one. The artist creates his art and man sustains it. It is only within the framework of this collective that poetry or any other art can survive.

"Freedom is a white road with green grass like love . . . " Martin Carter sings in his "Poems of Prison."

"Freedom is an architecture of movement down the river of ocean . . .

The still cry of a hero is rebuke enough

To stir a company of living men
to seek freedom . . .

To blunt death's ambitions
or spear the rash demon who would shatter the globe.'

Wilson Haris writes in his poem "The Glorious Children of the Gods". These poems are warnings to the men who dream that the world is an "eternal station", a changeless society of masters and slaves. Neruda relegates these men to

"The interminable granary of lost deeds . . . "

* * *

There is no national printing press in the West Indies and in the absence of this measures must be improvised to propagate culture. Martin Carter's poems could well be read to groups of workers through programmes sponsored by progressive parties.

"Out of my time I carve a monument . . .

The sharp knife of dawn glitters in my hand . . . "

Carter's poems echo the voices of all West Indians, they represent the faithful portrayal of the dreams of men bursting from the streets of forgotten men, into the modern world.

Civil Liberties

from page 4

tions will be allowed to collect money publicly, but with the permission of the Commissioner of Police. Trade Unions and political organisations are excluded from the Bill. This also would hit the annual May Day tag collection carried out by the B.G. Trades Council for the past few years. Like the Bill to control loud speakers, this was deferred when opposition was revealed.

Civil Servants

GOVERNMENT has just issued a circular to civil servants and employees pointing out the necessity of preserving the impartiality and political neutrality of the service. In the political neutrality circular civil servants and pensionable Transport and Harbour employees cannot take part in politics and may not:

1. **Hold office in any political organisation.**
2. **Speak in public on matters of political controversy.**
3. **Write letters to the press, broadcast, publish books or articles or circulate leaflets in political matters.**
4. **Canvas in support of political candidates.**

This will remove rights enjoyed by many government employees who hold office in political organisations and speak at public meetings, etc. Government's attitude in maintaining political neutrality is a false one as the three chief civil servants hold political positions, as members of the Legislative Council. These civil servants—the Attorney-General, Colonial Secretary and Financial Secretary—take sides frequently in the Legislative Chamber and recently voted against a motion to allow Billy Strachan and Ferdinand Smith to enter British Guiana. "Talk of political neutrality of civil servants is a myth" said a trade union leader recently.

Fighting back

Despite the moves related above by an imperialist government to keep its subject people in full control, the people to-day are on the march. They are objecting to every move and are fully conscious of what is happening. They are prepared to fight to the finish every attempt to suppress their rights and civil liberties.

LITERATURE

THUNDER—Progressive monthly (British Guiana), 4d. per copy or 5/6 per year, Post Paid.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICAN PEOPLE
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COMMONWEALTH Economic Conference

From Ranji Chandisingh

THE slogan of this conference recently concluded in London might well be—" Intensified exploitation of the Colonial people and their resources."

The adjustment of the Commonwealth's financial and economic policies to meet the requirements of American capital is clearly evident in the report released at the close of the Conference, revealing the extent to which th British capitalists have sunk in their dependence on Yankee dollars.

Apart from the breaking down of the white Commonwealth people's own living standard, thinly disguised in the phraseology of the Minister's report as " internal economics in each country,"—one of the main targets of the plan strikes directly and savagely at the colonial peoples.

" Food and agricultural products, and minerals " are stressed in the report, the production of which must be stepped up and exported, chiefly to the U.S.

Dollar Earners

Mr. John Dugdale, M.P., speaking on the Colonial Loans Bill debate in Parliament on November 14th, had this to say:

> " While we had difficulties in meeting our balance of payments the Colonies produced a surplus of no less than 450 million dollars last year, a very considerable contribution to our dollar problem; far in excess of many of the contributions which industry is called on to make by selling goods in the dollar market to America."

In the same speech he pointed out that the West Indies earned 50 million dollars last year. From this it is not difficult to understand the motives for intensified colonial exploitation.

Along with this goes the penetration of " benevolent " American capital.

Among the incentives given to American capital investment is a relaxation of exchange control which will allow residents outside the sterling area who have invested in the U.K. or the Colonies, since January 1st, 1950, to withdraw profits as well as capital.

. . . . and O.E.E.C. too

Almost simultaneously with the ending of the Commonwealth Conference, the American-run Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, set out in its fourth-yearly report proposals for "Point Four" to be transferred from providing purely technical assistance to an agency for investing large sums of Yankee capital in the under-developed areas. This, it is made clear, would be a life saver to take in the slack when rearmament expenditure decreases.

True character

In other words, avoid economic slump by preparing for war, then if war is not engineered, turn the surplus capital to extracting the maximum profits out of the colonial people.

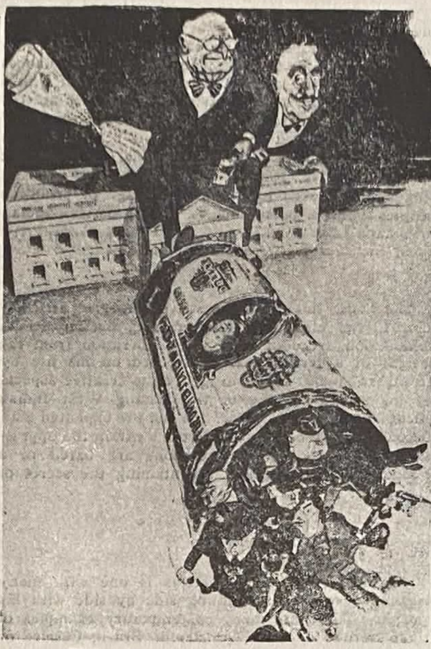
All this is described as so much benevolence towards the "lesser breeds". But as the crisis of the imperialist world deepens, the sheep's clothing is dropping from the wolf one by one.

The Commonwealth Economic Conference and the O.E.E.C. Report have advanced the imperialists' plots a step further.

How far shall they succeed? That is now being decided by the people of Malaya, Vietnam, Korea, Kenya, Tunis, Persia, Egypt, and not least of all by the West Indies.

★ ADVERTISING ★

Rates for advertising in " Caribbean News " 7/6 per column inch or 1/- per line; front page ad, 10/- per column inch. 7 words per line.



Birds of a feather wrapped together

C. L. C. DANCES

* * *

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Federation (ctd.)

from page 1

. . . " It recommends federation of the British Caribbean Colonies—Crown Colonies, semi-Crown Colonies, semi-Responsible Colonies or what have you—just as they now stand. Thus is it proposed that the Colonial Office maintain the direct powers of interference in each unit, which it now enjoys."

" What has emerged is a proposed constitutional structure which will simplify the administrative problems of the Colonial Office, but tranfer no power to our representatives to solve the problems of the Caribbean."

"Rance must go"

Rance's influence has sunk lower and lower since 1948-49, and to-day is the most hated foreigner in the West Indies. How often in the streets of Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, Georgetown, Piarco, and Point Fontin has the slogan—" Rance must go " hit the headlines ?

Following this decline, the dollar-mad maniacs have searched for new bait. Now they try to peddle POINT 4, the World Bank, the Truman Doctrine and all the other discredited disguises that were meant to hide imperial intervention.

Yankee demands

On November 17th, the NEW YORK TIMES in an editorial on the proposed London talks on Federation stated that the plans held much interest for America.

> " We in the United States, can view this development with sympathetic interest.
>
> " The British Islands in the Caribbean—Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, the Leewards and the Windwards—have a population only slightly larger than that of Manhattan Island, though they include 6,884 square miles of land, scattered over many thousands of square miles of sea. But they have much historical importance, **their economic importance is growing,** and yearly they become more familiar to American tourists. Hence the announcement that a long-discussed plan for Federation will take shape at a Conference to be held in London next April has great interest for us . . .
>
> " If the plan is carried out there will be a Federation or Commonwealth Parliament, legislating for all members, and presumably with much more freedom from British control than is enjoyed at present (?) . . .
>
> " No thoughtful visitor in these Westward British Isles can help realising how many and how difficult these problems are. The crimes and blunders of bygone generations—the exterminating of the original inhabitants, the introduction of slaves, the failure to build a solid and prosperous economy after slavery was abolished . . .
>
> " Yet these islands are rich in possibilities; their climate during a great part of the year is pleasant; their human stock is capable of increased production; and they are showing healthy signs of desiring to manage their own affairs . . . "

Grantley Adams raging at his colleagues in the Barbados House tried to thwart their demands for democracy with the threat that the U.S.A. would cut off all aid (farm labour prospects, etc.) if they continued to act like Communists!

See now where the so-called Confederation of " Free " Trade Unions fits in? They are the softening up barrage that precedes the storm that is planned to take place in London in the carpeted sweat-shops of Whitehall.

The whole picture is complete; London and New York have only one piece that does not fit in—**THE PEOPLE.**

* We want a Federation and Self-Government Now. The hungry leering of U.S.A. businessmen is a further indication of the potential wealth we possess. Yankee interests want the Rance schemes carried out. A super-Colony for Britain in the West Indies would be lovely pickings for Britain's super creditor. The English Governor-General is to be the appointed chief, after the style that Britain has employed in Kenya and sought in vain in Bechuanaland.

Our Programme

Our horizons are unlimited when we win our demands. This has the overwhelming support of organised labour and united movement can fight confidently for the victory of the C.L.C. programme:

1. UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE in each unit of the proposed Federation of the West Indies.
2. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT for each Unit, with wholly elected Legislatures and Executive Councils responsible to these Legislatures.
3. A WHOLLY ELECTED Federal Parliament wholly elected Cabinet or Executive Council responsible to the Legislature.

FEDERATION ★
AND
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END COLOUR BAR IN BRITAIN—

SAY WORKERS IN BIRMINGHAM

by HENRY GUNTER

RECOGNISING the terrible conditions facing coloured workers in this city, the Birmingham Trades Council unanimously adopted a resolution moved by this correspondent at its Meeting on Saturday, 13th December, which reads:

> **"In view of the appalling conditions which immigrant workers have to live under in Birmingham, and the failure to meet this problem, we ask that the Trades Union Congress demand that the Goverment provide accommodation for these workers".**

What are these "appalling conditions"?

Henry Gunter, Secretary, Birmingham Group, C.L.C., and member of E.C., Birmingham Trades Council.

Housing

In the process of investigating the way in which my people are housed in Bordesley, Aston and Small Heath, I found 3 or 4 sharing a small room, and paying £1 each a week. They had no bedding or proper facilities, and the furniture consisted of a table and a chair. This was just one example of a condition which exists generally.

Most landladies refuse to let their vacant

continued on page 3

TRINIDAD *MAKE MOVE!* on the march

by Our Political Correspondent

From the oilfields of Trinidad has come news that will cheer the heart of every true West Indian patriot, and will bring warm congratulations from all who detest the present system of colonial-oppression in the West Indies. On Thursday, 23rd October, 1952, the oilfield workers of Point Fortin and their families struck a heavy blow at the rule of the foreign despots, and set a magnificent example for all the West Indies to follow.

In an attempt to secure a reduction in the admission fee of the local cinema, a group of young men approached the owner-manager. Their humble request was arrogantly refused. Angered by the treatment received the fellows picketed the cinema stopping intending patrons and explaining the position to them. This move was so successful that for the matinee only five persons went in. Realising they had a weapon with which to whip the arrogant cinema owner the fellows covered the Astoria cinema again before the start of the evening show and only 15 Europeans employed by the oil company went in.

Talent show

This move was so successful that it called for repetition and each night 800-1,000 persons would gather outside the cinema to watch the humbling of the cinema owner and to political statements by the young men who initiated the move. "To break the monotony a local talent show was hastily got up, and members of the public have responded with surprising willingness. The steelband have rallied to the call and even calypsoes have been composed for the occasion." THE CINEMA CLOSED DOWN.

Fully realising the strength of the forces they had aroused the imitators of the movement, under the fight slogan MAKE MOVE rallied all possible support and formed the MAKE MOVE ASSOCIATION.

COLONIAL TERROR IN St. VINCENT

DECEMBER, 20th 1952: To-day all the weight of Britain's Colonial Civil Service crashed down on the Hon. Ebenezer Joshua, M.L.C. in Kingstown, St. Vincent.

He is charged with sedition—the usual Colonial Office smear against patriots.

Protests have already been flooding the offices of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on account of the alleged treatment by the Commissioner of Police.

Resentment is so high that the workers at Mt. Bentinck Estates Ltd. came out on a one day strike.

Fear

Stark fear of the people, the masses, served the Hon. Joshua in good stead. As he screamed and shouted from the jail cells, the authorities slammed doors and windows to avoid publicity. Too late, however, and the news spread far and wide. With discretion prevailing over valour, the great St. Vincentian leader was set free, on bail in his own bond to the sum of £50.

The case is to be heard on January 5th, and this will be the culmination of another round in the mighty and historic struggle by West Indians to stand as freemen in our own country.

(Watch next issue for news of developments.)

C.L.C. (London Branch) PROTESTS

A public meeting sponsored by the C.L.C. (London Branch) on Sunday, 18th January, at the Holborn Hall, passed a resolution to be sent to Oliver Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, condemning the alleged ill-treatment by the police of the Hon. E. T. Joshua, M.L.C., St. Vincent, and demanding that "a public inquiry be held with a view to ascertaining the facts and making them public in the interest of justice and democracy".

Another resolution, also passed unanimously, "protests at the banning of West Indians entering sister colonies, in that it is a violation of the provisions of the 1948 British Nationality Act.

"The persistence of unjust restrictions on travel between West Indian territories, OF WEST INDIANS, must cease, especially owing to the planned talks on Federation, due to open on April 13th, 1953.

"We DEMAND the lifting of the bans immediately, free access of travel be legally recognised as a basic right, and hence the establishment of some foundation of a real FEDERATION with national Independence."

★ APRIL 13th. ★

Federation Talks

LONDON: Summonses by now are in the hands of the Governments of Jamaica, Trinidad, the Windward and Leeward Islands.

The Colonial Office, have announced the day, and state that the Report of the Standing Closer Association Committee will be taken as the starting point of the Conference.

This Committee was directed by the notorious Governor of Trinidad, Major-General Sir Hubert Rance. Iron Curtain Rance, the arch-opponent of inter-island travel and association, is casted as the figure sponsoring Federation.

But the 13th was always unlucky, and there won't be any exception for Sir Hubert and the minorities he represents.

FEDERATION for the organised workers in Trade Unions and progressive political organisations already exists through the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS.

The LONDON BRANCH has carried the banner for every single territory when necessary, without favour, and the continued successes of **CARIBBEAN NEWS** bear lasting witness.

Victory

Throughout the West Indian territories, we have demanded adult suffrage, first. Victory is in sight—it has meant imprisonment, bloodshed and death for some of our greatest patriots at Frome, Jamaica 1938, Plantation Enmore, British Guiana 1948, St. George, Grenada 1951. Only British Guiana and British Honduras are being thwarted and it is significant that the Legislatures, packed with nominated members, of both these mainland territories are strongly opposed to reuniting our common heritage.

APRIL 13th is another milestone, and even the dark shadows of Whitehall might be rudely awakened to the ghastly truth of the wicked decades of Empire.

A Review of . . . 'Forward to Freedom' by Richard Hart

This is a chapter in the history of the West Indian people's fight for national independence.

Richard Hart is a brave man in presenting this concise precis of the political climate in Jamaica.

I say "brave" because a political analysis of the two speeches which comprise the pamphlet, FORWARD TO FREEDOM have little in common.

The first section is the text of a speech delivered to a special People's National Party Conference on March 29th, 1952. This is, perhaps, the clearest illustration of how the whole rotten smell of imperialism accompanies its own intrinsic visciousness and permeates even to the best formed ranks of the people's organisations. There is confusion, there is the cultivation of a Bra Anancy technique, and opportunism is sponsored, with a view to ultimately dividing the progressive forces that stand for national independence. Hart himself, by producing his speech for the record, is indeed a brave and honest man, for he himself is not excluded from the wretched environment that is unfortunately our people's lot.

Patriots?

One can hardly agree with the reference on Page 2 to Ken Hill and William Seivright that, "they were both nationalists and good P.N.P. members." Phoney nationalism can never be confused with the sincerity that binds a leader to his ranks. Our ranks are the whole colonial peoples squarely lined against our enemies, the big business-men of London and New York who falsely claim and temporarily hold, our oil, sugar, bananas, bauxite, gold, manganese, etc.

Poor Bustamante is elevated to the status of being the force that kept the masses from participation in the national movement. But if the masses are not there, can it be a national movement? Surely the weedy, cunning Busta was a result of the national movement. His fiery, erratic speeches that attracted the thousands to his side were a true expression of the national movement!

Rhetoric

But let this not detract one jot from the value of studying Hart's reproduced speeches. It is all the more important to every one of us to brood over them. There is a flash of rhetoric that well equals the defence of many partiots in the face of the traitorous kinsmen.

> **"We who have stood up to persecution and imprisonment in the past are prepared to suffer whatever may come in the future. And these frightened men who in their imagination see war just around the corner may have the satisfaction of knowing that if war comes and the Americans are seeking victims in the West Indies they may ensure the safety of their own skins by pointing at us. And I hope their consciences will be merciful."**

The second speech at the Founding Conference of the National Labour Party, September 14th, 1952, is truly a landmark in the political struggle in Jamaica. Lessons learned here by every West Indian can strengthen the structure of a political liberation movement which has brought the Caribbean into the footlights on the international stage.

Read it

Reading this section would be more beneficial than for me to attempt to interpret it for you.

> "But workers leaders who have for years been growing into popularity under the banner of "the Red Flag" to the strains of "the Voice of the City" written by the distinguished Soviet composer Shostokovitch, and who have been accustomed to raise the clenched fist in a militant working class salute, are only inviting suspicion on themselves when they start to sow timidity among the workers and to haul down the red flag before their eyes.
>
> "The workers respect courage and integrity. When they see these qualities their confidence in their leaders is strengthened and they know that they will not be betrayed. But the workers are suspicious of anything that has the appearance of "ginal". They may not show it immediately. Loyalties do not die quickly. But they feel it and show it later. Let us then at all times stand firm against fear; fear of being red-baited, fear of being red smeared, fear of being called a communist."

The pamphlet FORWARD TO FREEDOM presents even more lessons than Richard Hart apparently meant to convey and therefore has an enhanced value, well above the 1/6d. retail price. It's a bargain!

B.S.

The Novel and the W. I.

by JAN CAREW

Side by side with the calypso with its original rhythms, its social protest, its subtle bawdiness, the novel is emerging as an important medium of artistic expression in the West Indies.

This contradictory situation is significant in that it is the direct result of a rapidly maturing class struggle. All of the West Indian novelists, of whom there have been nine so far, came from the middle class.

The West Indian middle class presents a novel picture for the student of politics and social evolution.

It is not a middle class in the same sense as the European middle class is one, rather it is a small class of compradors perched uneasily between the absentee proprietor, the importee functionaire and the working class.

Oblivious

As a whole this class remains oblivious of events in the outside world. Its chief source of information is usually a daily press with views at once naive and obtuse, reactionary or ridiculous.

The press that channels news to the members of this class is in itself fed on second, third and fourth hand news from abroad. In some instances the interpretations and slants given to this news by local journalists and editors would cause laughter in the most reactionary circles in Europe.

It is a class without tradition, without history, because it would deny its roots in slave ancestors, Amerindian natives and Indentured labourers.

Its concept of culture is mimicry of the antics of the white overlord. Skin colour is the fetish and obsession of this class and next to skin colour, wealth.

It is essentially a servile class, but if it were accused of servility it would rise up in arms and call subservience—breeding or good manners.

It would gladly make its white overlord the trustee of its destiny for ever, but as Bismarck said, "facts are stubborn things".

The real arbiter of the destiny of the West Indian Middle class is the working class, which is becoming increasingly militant. The majority of members in this class are the descendants of slaves, whose unique labour power made the Industrial Revolution possible. In the face of the timidity and vaccilation of the middle class, the working class is confronting the world with an inflexible purposiveness demanding bread, education and freedom from want.

Facts

The novel by its very nature is involved in all levels of human experience. A serious novelist cannot ignore the inexorable facts of our time, and one fact in particular, dominating all others: that the world is becoming a HUMAN WORLD, that the human figure is emerging above the ruins of fallen gods, of crumbling institutions, of "unchallengeable" absolutes (the absolutes that could justify slavery with quotations from the Bible, or condemn change as an evil thing).

The world of the nineteenth century was Europe and North America, outside of these areas were amorphous lands populated by semi-human forms and symbols. To-day the European and American have discovered, to their dismay that the majority of the world's inhabitants live in Asia, Africa, Oceana and South America.

This discovery is like a wound into which salt is being rubbed by a chain reaction of world events: the Chinese revolution, the nationalist struggles in South East Asia, the Middle East, Africa and South America.

These Events are extensions of an organic upsurge of human masses throughout the world, an objective reality that cannot be ignored.

The many forecasts of doom for the world, the "death wish" so often found in the contemporary art and literature of Western Europe and America, reflect the inverted despairs of a class which would rather go down with the sinking ship than accept the fact that change and movement are poles on an axis of time and history.

continued on back page

Women:

The TASK that Lies AHEAD

by Pansy Jeffrey

★

Women's Organiser C. L. C. (L.B.)

IN 1946 when I came to England the number of West Indian women I saw in the streets were few. To-day the picture is entirely different. The very fact that so many women have in recent years taken the decision to come to England leads me to think of my own position.

I am a member of the C.L.C. (London Branch), and maybe because of this fact, the part which the women of the West Indies must play if we are to progress to the state of advancement which we all want, presents itself in no uncertain manner.

RUNNING OUR COUNTRY

The fact is that in the near future we must take a more active part in the running of our country. We must realise that Unity and Solidarity of West Indians is essential if we are to have political and economic freedom.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) is pursuing a policy which would give the women of the Caribbean the opportunity to work side by side with their men folk. It is therefore regrettable that so few women identify themselves with the C.L.C.

In my capacity as organiser of the women's section I have found women as a whole disinterested and unco-operative. This is to a certain extent to be expected, for in any country the women are the last to take the initiative.

But the time has come for us to give our support to organisations which have been proved to be acting in our interests.

HOUSEWIVES AFFECTED

WHEN any crisis hits a community it is the housewives who are the most affected. When discrimination raises its ugly head, as in Brixton, it is the women who are hardest hit.

By this it must follow that all West Indian women who have had the opportunity to come abroad, the opportunity to see what the women of the more advanced parts of the world play in the development of their country, must organise themselves and be equipped for the task which lies ahead. The C.L.C. (London Branch) provides such an opportunity and it is because of this that we must not only give moral support but become active members.

FREE HEALTH

Since I have been working with the C.L.C. the rôle we should play has become clear to me. As women, we must advocate free health and educational services in the West Indies for all. We have seen the benefits derived from the social services in this country.

To ensure our children's future and so help to make the world worthwhile for them to live in, we must pool our ideas and be prepared for a certain amount of sacrifice and hard work.

Jamaican Parson beaten up in U. S. A.

by "THE LINK"

THE COLOUR-BAR has again raised its ugly head in that so-called " Paradise Land." It now takes the form of a brutal attack by white racialists on the Jamaican Reverend Amos Carnegie, while travelling on a bus from Atlanta, Georgia.

According to the report given to the **Chattanooga Times** and published in the **Jamaica Gleaner,** the Rev. Carnegie took a seat in the middle of the bus whereupon he was ordered by the driver to sit at the back—reserved for Negroes, according to American Southern conceptions of " civilisation ".

He refused, and subsequently two white men approached him and beat him up, throwing him on the ground and pummelling him with fist and foot.

He appealed for help, but no one—passengers or driver—came to his aid.

FURTHERMORE, two policemen boarded the bus later on and threatened to arrest Rev. Carnegie. The two men got off the bus and were not arrested.

What a sad comment on American topsy-turvy conceptions of " justice ", when the criminals go free and their victims are threatened with punishment.

PROTESTS

FOLLOWING the news of this treatment of a Jamaican, the Jamaica Youth Movement picketed the American Consulate in Kingston, with placards reading " We demand justice for Rev. Carnegie ", " Stop Lynching Negroes in the U.S.A.! " and " Ike is this your crusade for freedom?"

A LETTER of protest was also forwarded to the American Consul-General in Kingston and the State Department by the J.Y.M. representing the youth of Jamaica, expressing indignation at the " barbaric assault ". The protest goes on to say:

> **" INDEED, the very fact that your Government has taken no official steps to discourage and punish such unlawful acts, assures us that these outrages are condoned officially; and we call upon your Government, so eloquent in its protestation of freedom of justice, to set the example and outlaw the practice of Racial Discrimination and Oppression, throughout the United States of America."**

SUGAR COATING

PERSISTENT attempts are made to gild the barbarous practices perpetrated against the coloured citizens of the United States.

But as if in mockery of the U.S. State Department's " goodwill " missions and sponsored tours abroad to " sell " the American Way of Life and the " democratic " treatment of Negroes, embarrassing facts pop up ever so often to nail the lie in these stunts.

THE NEGRO shot for voting, the exposure of actual slavery, the judicial murders and lynchings of American Negro citizens, counfound the propagandists. **NOT EVEN JAMAICANS ESCAPE THIS SAVAGE RULE !**

"CN" FUND

* * *

THE Birmingham comrades know the kind of greetings we like, with a contribution from Comrade Gunter to the CN Fund.

WE would like to see many more such greetings rolling in, swelling the Fund and putting life-blood into " Caribbean News," which needs EVERY penny.

Send contributions to " CN " FUND, 45 Brondesbury Villas, London, N.W.6.

You NEED " CN ", and " CN " needs YOU.

Celebrate ★ ★

Colonial Youth Day

with a full programme of

Colonial Speakers | **Cultural Performances**

St. PANCRAS TOWN HALL

Sunday, 22nd. February

7 p.m. **Tube: King's Cross**

Editorial

CARIBBEAN NEWS

Issued Monthly

Address:

45 Brondesbury Villas,
London, - N.W.6

OUR FUND

THIS is the fourth issue of "Caribbean News." We have tried to improve it as we go on. We are faced, however, with great financial problems.

From the beginning we realised that without a regular fund of contributions from readers we could not hope to improve the paper in size, with pictures, and so on.

But so far the appeal has not met with the necessary response, probably because readers have not been aware of its importance. We want our supporters to realise the urgency and necessity of our FUND APPEALS. It is not incidental, it is not just a safety valve, but it is the bedrock upon which " Caribbean News " must exist.

This is not sales talk, friends, to create alarm in order to win your contributions. We neither pull our punches nor overstate our case, and we ask our supporters to take us very seriously when we say—" Caribbean News " needs your contributions.

We feel sure that once the importance of the FUND is realised, our many friends and supporters will lose no time in coming to our assistance.

February 21st.

SINCE the end of the war, February 2nd has been recognised as the day of Solidarity with Colonial Youth. On that day youth of the imperialist countries have demonstrated their solidarity, unity and friendship with the youth in the colonies.

This sort of demonstration is not the type that seeks to reconcile colonial youth to exploitation with the connivance of the youth of imperialist countries But it is meant to inspire the youth struggling for a better life and the colonial youth fighting for independence of their homelands.

The demonstrations, meetings and discussions planned throughout Britain around February 21st will show British youth that the colonial wars being waged by their rulers against the people of Malaya and Kenya do not benefit them, but squanders their young lives and treasure in destroying these very things of the people of Malaya and Kenya.

Although the British rulers try their hardest to win the youth for their policies of criminal war and exploitation, more and more the young people are realising the significance of colonial oppression on their pay packets and conditions.

We are not isolationists, and we also know that our future as West Indians lies in friendship with the youth of all countries struggling for peace, independence and a better life.

We shall cut across the barriers that separate us and throttle our common exploiters.

CHALLENGE

LAST month Comrade Pierre Tomlinson sold 243 copies of the December issue of " Caribbean News ". Is Cde. Tomlinson a super-salesman above the capacities of others?

The answer is that he is first a true patriot which in turn makes him a super-salesman of " Caribbean News ".

ARE THERE ANY CHALLENGERS TO BEAT CDE. PIERRE TOMLINSON'S FIGURE?

MAKE MOVE

from page 1

Strike

The workers of U.B.O.T. Ltd. who were negotiating for a wage increase were insolently told by the stooges of the oil company shareholders that, " they did not need any more money because they had plenty to spend in the clubs and on clothes ". The following day they moved against the Company-controlled Sports Club and 150 resigned while the rest just stayed away. A one-day token strike was called with tremendous success.

As the oil company's transport system was paralysed owing to the strike, a local capitalist Haidar Ali, proprietor of the gas station and a dry goods store, offered to supply chauffeurs to the oil company. This greedy capitalist had already run up against the Make Move by attending the cinema, and he found it wise to make a written apology. This time an apology was not asked for, and public opinion, correctly led, put a steel ring around his business premises. The Make Move Bulletin describes his efforts to sell his goods, " He called a cheap sale at his store with music, etc., on Friday, and when people gathered outside the store and refused to buy he got two policemen with batons to make them move away. This show of force only helped to keep more people away ".

Co-operation

Another local petty capitalist, Mrs. Andin, has also felt the lash of organised public opinion she threatened to " cause a shut-down of all shops and stores in the village owned by Chinese. She made the threat because she said black people cannot co-operate. Now that the Make Move Association has made move on her store and shops, she has begun to see how black people can co-operate. She has offered to apologise, but the people are demanding a public apology ".

But it has not all been easy going. The reactionary forces in Trinidad were caught unawares by this terrific new movement, and panic stricken at the idea catching on they have not mentioned it, not even by way of attacking it, in the columns of the imperialist dominated press. By good leadership and good discipline the police have had no excuse to terrorise the people.

Spreading

However, not all the bans or blankets of silence can stifle this movement. One of the young men in the leadership of this movement, George Bowrin, has at great personal sacrifice brought out a Bulletin which is already spreading the idea of Make Move into all aspects of life in the community.

They have forced the dry goods stores who made female clerks sweep up the stores in the mornings to employ boys to do the cleaning. They have checked on parlours, cafés, cookshops, rumshops, etc., and reported all cases of insanitary conditions to the Sanitary Inspector, and seeing that he takes action **against the persons concerned.**

Like fire

This is an idea that is begging to be copied in every West Indian territory; it could sweep through the West Indies like fire through a canefield and singe the rats who are at present robbing the West Indies and impoverishing our people.

The Make Move Association sends a call to every West Indian:

" Workers of Trinidad and Tobago arise! Make Move wherever you are! The people are on the march. Support them. They are on the march because they are dissatisfied with their miseries: They want better conditions for themselves and their families and they are tired of begging.

" Let the oppressors beware! Long live the people! Down with oppression!"

Join the C.L.C. Now

(London Branch)

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". . . the company is fortunate in having both at home and in Trinidad, an enthusiastic and capable team and the prosperity of the company is in no small measure, due to their efforts."

£685,313 or $3½ million West Indian dollars, as NETT PROFIT!

Mr. Kenneth A. E. Moore, F.C.A., has certainly lived up to the tradition of understatement. The booty is divided up amongst the London city sharks, the British imperial government and the unrepresentative government of Trinidad, bossed by the British civil servant Rance.

AFTER all this, £500,000 still remains to be cached to what is called a GENERAL RESERVE.

Moore does not deny his monopoly relations, and very naively expresses his company's appreciation, "of the good relations which have existed for so many years between the company and the Shell organisation as managers of UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD LTD., and . . . the recent negotiations which have been concluded to the mutual satisfaction of both parties."(?)

Nigerian Ministers EXPELLED!

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN on December 17th, 1952, carried the following report:

"A Nigerian Cabinet Minister, who attended the recent Commonwealth economic conference in London, has been expelled from his party—the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons. He is Mr. Alfred Chuku Nwapa, Minister of Commerce and Industry. Two other African Ministers in the Nigerian Government have also been expelled.

The party gave no reason for its action, but it is known that the three disagree with a decision by the Council to refuse to work the new Constitution."

GRANTLEY ADAMS WAS THERE TOO!

Violation of Trade Union Freedom— say St. Vincent Workers

On learning of the arrest by the French Government of world-renowned trade unionist Alain le Leap, Vice-President of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the FEDERATED INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION of St. Vincent sent off a protest to the Secretary-General of the UNITED NATIONS direct and also through the Government of St. Vincent, B.W.I.

The PROTEST reads:

> "We have been informed through the World Federation of Trade Unions that their Vice-President, Mr. Alain le Leap, has been illegally arrested.
>
> "The Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union of St. Vincent strongly protest against this arbitrary arrest; and join strongly with the eighty million organised workers of the W.F.T.U. to have Mr. le Leap freed so that he may continue to defend the French workers against the Government's policy of war and poverty in order to defend their bread and freedom.
>
> "We the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union of Saint Vincent, British West Indies, deplore the fascist-like measure which constitutes a flagrant violation of trade union freedom and freedom of opinion."

GRENADA

Sir Robert Arundell, on leaving the island made one more contribution to the West Indian indictment of the system of colonial governors.

His ward was in a precarious state, as far as financial affairs is concerned. National Revenue was stated to be $3,720,640 W.I. (£775,130), a mere £10 per head for the population. This is an island that produces one-third of the total world spice production!

Could any worker at La Sagesse or Belmont do better than this?

The story of woe, is always the same and of course, poor Arundell can only echo the nonsense preached by his superiors who dabble, potter about with, and frenziedly try to bolster a rotten corrupt dying system, Imperialism.

And so to Barbados . . .

YOUTH CONFERENCE

West Indians—*CELEBRATE COLONIAL DAY*

Wednesday, Feb. 25th. 7-30 p.m.

CONWAY HALL

SPECIAL OFFER

New pamphlet:-

Federation & Self-Government NOW
or Colonialism & Slavery FOR EVER

Reduced price 3d. from Lit. Sec.

People's Organisations

From our JAMAICAN CORRESPONDENT

EVERYBODY is talking about the **PEOPLE'S EDUCATION ORGANISATION.** Some say it is Communist, others see another new party, several don't know what it is; reporters weave intricate plots to stimulate their bored readers, politicians quiver, the police are mystified, and this is what the official document says:

> "We are happy to advise you of the formation of the People's Education League or Organisation which was founded at a conference held at the Success Club by persons interested in progressive adult education . . . the conference was convened by Richard Hart who has already done a great deal of work of this kind as Education Officer of the T.U.C."

Fresh Breeze

It is a breath of fresh air for our unfortunate people who have been confused, cheated and sold-out so often since they took their first positive steps in 1938 on the road to self-determination.

If we understand the cunning, the devilry and deceipt that the imperialists use as an alternative for military force, when there is a possibility of their colonies, gold or bauxite mines being seized and returned to their rightful owners, then we can measure the problems of this society that besets us. We have to expect Bustamantes, Manleys, Hills, and others who might set out with the most sincere intentions, but cannot face adversity, and fall easy prey to the traps that are set for them. This is a process of education the hard way, it is real education, a combination of theory and practice and everything points to success for this new People's Educational Organisation.

Ideal

THEIR headquarters is 64 Barry Street, Kingston, amidst the heart and soul of the industrial workers. As their tersely written members bulletin states, "our location is ideal as a centre during the day, at a point which is equi-distant from the east, west and north suburbs from the east, west and north suburbs of the city so that those of our members who have to travel home at night after meetings at least complain equally about the distance.

At headquarters there is a well stocked library of the widest variety of literature, from Dickens to H. G. Wells, ranging across the continents of Africa, Far and Central Asia, the Americas and the home of imperialism, Europe. Subjects include economics, poetry, politics, trade unionism, history days of the past and new horizons. All this has been made available for some years in Kingston itself and other local towns. Supporters too in the U.S.A., Great Britain and Italy have responded to make the project a living reality.

Go Forward

Young trade unionists who had been stifled and frustrated within the demagogy of the older organisations, have found a new place in the P.E.O. With their thirst for knowledge partially satiated these young workers are able to direct their activities with much more purpose, and already their strengthened presence in the organised trade unions and other peoples' organisations is fully appreciated, in the interest of the mass of our people. They are ready to go forward, prepared to face any adversity and eagerly awaiting the glorious future that follows the great struggles and final victory of NATIONAL LIBERATION.

COLONIAL OFFICE DANCE— *flops*

The Annual Dance organised by Colonial Office "liaison officers", for January 2nd, at the Seymour Hall, Marble Arch, LONDON, was a sombre affair.

ONLY A MERE 500 or so accepted the spider and the fly invitations of which around 1,400 were sent out. It is absolutely certain that the students of colonial organisations, including the West African Students' Union, who PICKETED outside on the frozen pavements were a lot more comfortable, than the few whose pride could not resist the annual appeasement, put out to balance the adversities of one year's struggle for existence, against a colour-bar, high rents and low allowances. A score of policemen stood by; who knows what they expected?

The admission of defeat can best be appreciated by the report in the NEWS CHRONICLE

> **"Major Hugh Beaumont Shepherd, liaison officer for Nigerians, said: "The pickets have kept many students away."**

All credit to the temporary committee, in defence of Africans of Kenya, set up in London by colonial organisations, as reported in our JANUARY issue.

The West Indies were represented by their members in the West Indian Students' Union.

Public Enemy No. 1 Paints Jamaica Red?

"MR. CHURCHILL, on a two-week holiday in Jamaica, will wander about the countryside to-day to select a view to paint", reports the London EVENING STANDARD for 12th January, 1953.

It goes on: "He is reported to be impressed with the scenery and eager to start painting.

"Strict police security is ensuring that Mr. Churchill gets a restful holiday."—From the Jamaican people's wrath?

Churchill is impressed with the scenery. But will he paint the tents and shacks in which the people will live, and the poverty-stricken sleeping on the streets of Kingston?

We suspect that Churchill will not be distracted from his restful holiday by such trivialities which his predecessors in Government are supposed to have "eliminated".

Good for him that he has strict police security in Jamaica!

Malayan People's Struggle for National Independence

by **R. SAMY**

(Union of Democratic Malayan Youth & Students in Britain)

It is now four and a half years since a British government which called itself 'labour' but which actually was a toll of imperialism, launched the most barbarous colonial war ever invading forces against the peace and freedom launched by Britain. With a mighty array of invading forces against the peace and freedom loving Malayan people, British imperialism, with its ruthless war machine is still carrying on that agressive war with no victory in sight. The strongest British naval force east of Suez is concentrated around the coasts of Malaya. British imperialist armed forces equal 400,000.

These aggressive forces are mainly from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Nepal, South and East Africa, head-hunters and Special Constables from Borneo and Sarawak and a special armed constabulary from within the country, not forgetting American money and material. This huge imperialist aggressive force of intervention is supposedly fighting against a so-called "handful of bandits and terrorists".

Resistance force

It is to be recalled that evactly eleven years ago before the onslaught of Japanese fascism into Malaya, British imprialism fled. The Malayan people organised a resistance force under the leadership of the Malayan Communist Party called the Malayan Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army which fought heroically against the Japanese occupation. The Japanese fascists, be it noted, termed their aggressive war against the Malayan people as being against a so-called handful of "Communist bandits and terrorists." With the surrender of Japanese imperialism, the Japanese occupiers were immobilised by the Malayan Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army and thanks to it, the country was rid of this fascist element and immediately Peoples' Committees were set up to run the country. There was peace and a sound administration run by the Malayans themselves.

Later, the British South-East Asia Command signalled its intention to land ostensibly to take over the formal surrender of the Japanese forces in South East Asia, but in reality to stage a come-back to the pre-war colonial system. It was faced with a people determined to defend their dearly-won liberty. It was then forced to acknowledge the part played by the Malayan people in the anti-fascist war.

Physical repression

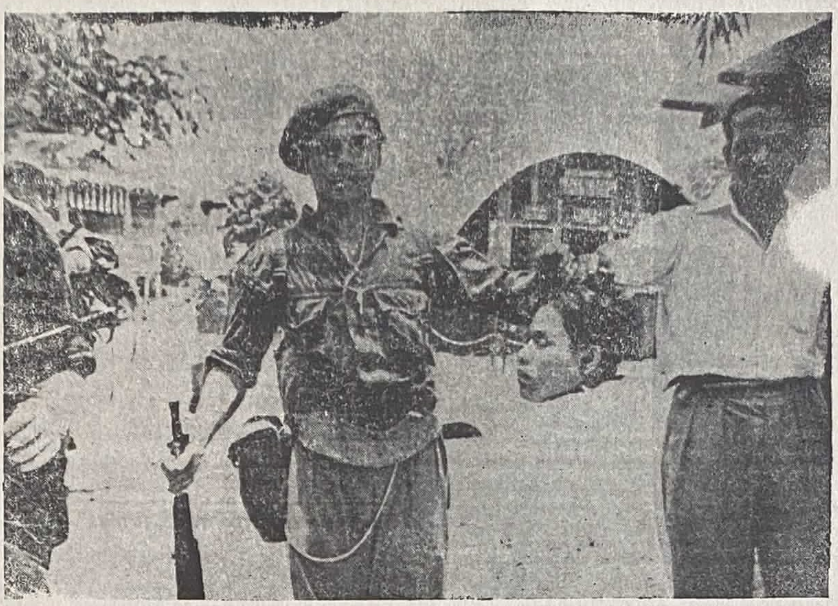
Between then and the declaration of the war in June, 1948, the British imperialists were playing for time to equip themselves militarily, and in the meantime had already started attacks against democratic organisations and their leaders. Resistance leaders were arrested and physical repression carried out. A United Front of the Malayan peoples formally demanded of the British government their right to national independence guaranteed under the UNO Charter and by an agreement previously concluded between Sout-East Asia Command and the Malayan Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army in 1943. This was refused. Instead, a sham constitution with no right of vote was presented, which was rejected by the people.

British imperialists feverishly began importing Gurka forces, supplemented by their own, and having staged their provocative actions, launched their war of agression? Immediately, they banned the Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions, the only organised powerful body of the workers and so were the peasants, women's, youths' and students' organisations and other democratic organisations of the people.

Police State

The Malayan Communist Party which had victoriously led the people in the anti-fascist resistance in Malaya and in the fight for Independence and Peace, was banned and several of their leaders shot. Having suppressed all democratic opinion, British imperialism set up a police state. It was only when the war was forced on the Malayan people in June, 1948, that the people took to arms. No, under the leadership of the Malayan Peoples' Liberation Army is valiantly putting up a heroic fight.

Using the well-worn deception borrowed from the Japanese fascists, the British imperialists now claim that they are fighting against a "handful of bandits and terrorists." With their ruthless war machine, they are carrying on that war in typical Nazi style—500,000 Malayan people in concentration camps, razing more than twenty-three villages to the ground, pillaging and plundering of even their scanty belongings, head-hunting and chemical warfare. This is the "civilising mission" that the imperialists boast of.



Dyak headhunters in the service of British Imperialism—hunting down Malayan Patriots

People impoverished

The national character of the war is shown by the admission of the imperialists that the captured partisans are from the three main nationalities, viz., Malayan, Chinese, Malayasians and Malayan Indians. The imperialist propaganda asserts that the Liberation movement is composed of what it terms "alien Chinese". This is not true. Since in this struggle for national independence, the working class is the leading force in alliance with the peasantry, and since the Malayan Chinese form the majority of the working class as well as the majority of the population, it is not surprising therefore that the Malayan Chinese play a leading rôle.

But the very nature and extent of the victimisation by the imperialists shows that the Malayasians form a substantial part of the Liberation movement. When one of the first villages, Jenderam, was razed to the ground, the overwhelming majority of the popualtion of that village were Malayasians. This lie is intended to coerce the British people into supplying the cannon-fodder and for an alleged war against "foreign interventionists" and to sow seeds of disunity between British and colonial peoples and between the Malayan national groups.

The British imperialists often boast of Malaya as their richest dollar earner. True, whilst Malayan tin and rubber alone in 1951 contributed $400,000,000 (U.S.) in Britain's dollar pool, the people have been left impoverished. Out of a total population of six and a quarter million 851,170 are unemployed or partially employed. As against 100 in 1939, the cost of living has gone up to by over 31.5% over the 1950 index which was 562, whilst wages are about double the 1939 level. Even according to the inadequate Colonial Office Report, it is stated that malnutrition, overcrowding and tuberculosis are now great "killing" diseases than malaria.

The report points out that in some parts of Singapore the density of population exceeds 1,000 per acre, and that a survey carried out showed that "15% of the population were living in 'spaces' (i.e., passageways, tiered bedlofts, sleeping shelves under or over staircases, etc.), 21% in 'acutely overcrowded' conditions, and 28% 'overcrowded'"—total of 64% without proper housing. That same Report adds that the squatters (landless peasants) "live in huts, old boxes and rusty corrugated iron . . . without sanitation, water or any elementary health requirements". In the field of education the percentage of illiteracy in English, the official language, is 97.6.

Workers militant

In the light of the recent imperialist utterances of mythical victories to boost up that flagging moral, what are the facts? General Templar declared on February 9th, 1952, "I could win this war in three months if I could get two-thirds of the people on my side." Among other things, that statement confirms the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people have placed their entire confidence in the Malayan Peoples' Liberation Army to bring their cherished goal—national independence, peace and prosperity.

Having banned the Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions, the imperialists set up stooge unions. Even here, at the annual conference in July, 1952, 40,000 Malayan Indian rubber workers condemned arbitrary wage-cuts imposed by the employers and the severe restriction on freedom of organisation and movement. They demanded the right to choose the place where they should live and protection against the "absolute regimentation" of their lives. In September, 1952, 5,000 workers of the rigidly controlled Singapore Naval Base Union struck for higher wages and better living conditions. To-day, 400,000 working people in the Government controlled sector are involved in disputes. The heroism and solidarity of the best sons and daughters of the Malayan workers and the people is more than a match for the police state set up by British imperialism. In the face of overwhelming odds, time and again the working people have proved their mettle and have shown by their actions that come what may, they will defeat British imperialism to achieve independence and establish a peoples' democratic state.

Common struggle

By their heroism and self-sacrifice, the Malayan people are inflicting defeat upon defeat on the imperialists. But it is not to their own efforts alone. For no narrow nationalism could survive the brutal onslaught of the imperialists. It is because the Malayan people have learnt to unite themselves in the struggle with world wide forces struggling for peace under the leadership of the Soviet Union that they are succeeding. It is by learning everyday of the struggle from the examples of the heroic peoples of China, Korea and Vietnam that the Malayan people are succeeding.

This path to freedom, independence and peace is open to all colonial and semi-colonial peoples, if they strive along it in unity and with determination. To our brothers who still live under colonial repression in the colonies, examples Kenya, Middle East, the West Indies particularly, we extend our solidarity. We need to strengthen this solidarity in our common struggle against the imperialist warmongers, particularly the arch war-monger, the American imperialists.

WEST INDIAN Youth Conference

prepares for world meet at Vienna

Caribbean News Reporter

YOUNG WORKERS from nearly every country in the world will shortly get together at the big Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth in Vienna, as already reported in a previous issue of this paper.

The Youth and Students Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), in a leaflet calling for West Indian support for the Conference, says in part:

> "In order that the West Indian representation at the International Conference shall be truly representative of what West Indian youth thinks and wants, and to focus attention on the specific problems which confront us, the West Indies preparatory committee issues an open invitation to all West Indian youth resident in Britain, irrespective of political or religious opinions, to come together (1) to discuss the conditions under which we live, work and study; (2) to table our demands and (3) to support the International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth.

West Indian Youth among those going through Innsbruck to the Berlin Festival in August, 1951.

You can help

"There are ways in which everyone can now help depending on their circumstances. These are:

(1) Join the Preparatory Committee.

(2) Organise a small informal house meeting and ask the Preparatory Committee to send a speaker to give first-hand information and answer questions.

(3) Submit to the Conference of West Indian Youth documents setting out your personal experiences either here or at home".

THIS WEST INDIAN Conference will take place on Sunday, March 1st, in two sessions—from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 to 5 p.m. The place will be announced shortly.

The Conference will discuss problems facing young West Indian workers, and a full discussion of these problems will greatly assist the delegation going to Vienna to put the case for the broadest representation of our youth.

The delegates will be elected at this Conference.

The Trinidad GUARDIAN has already launched an attack against the Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago for supporting the Conference.

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The Novel & the West Indies

from page 2

I have devoted some time to the West Indian middle class, to which with perhaps a single exception all the novelists from this area belong. This analysis throws light on many of the failings and the strengths of the West Indian novel. To complete the analysis, I should add that all the novelists from Eric Waldron and C. L. R. James to Mittelholzer and Selvon, were expatriate. They achieved success in England or the United States and never returned home.

'Black Jacobins'

JAMES, a brilliant man and a competent writer, started out by embracing Marxism passionately. "BLACK JACOBINS", a Marxist interpretation of the Haitian revolution, was the fruit of his short idyl with the left. Perhaps after his break with the left he lost his self respect, because he did not write anything else of value.

For a long time he was a Trotskyite, and recently he found favour with the American right wing. He now lectures on Herman Melville, the author of "MOBY DICK", a literary figure already deified by the pundits.

The primaeval in Melville, thanks to James, is now being obscured in "brilliant criticisms", to atone for a communist past.

It is rumoured that James will soon visit the Caribbean on a lecture tour. The people of the West Indies will have an excellent opportunity to compare the protege of the American right wing with the author of "BLACK JACOBINS".

(to be continued in next issue)

C. L. C. DANCES

SATURDAY, February 7th
Carle Francis and the Caribbeans
London School of Printing
7.30 p.m. — Waterloo Station

* * *

SATURDAY, March 14th
St. Martin's School of Art
Charing Cross Road
7.30 p.m. Tube: Tottenham Court Road

* * *

SATURDAY, April 11th
Carle Francis and the Caribbeans
St. Martin's School of Art
Charing Cross Road
7.30 p.m. Tube: Tottenham Court Road

Colour Bar

from page 1

rooms to coloured people, and those who do, usually sock the coloured people, charging them far higher rents than they would white tenants.

Where coloured workers ban together to try to solve the problem by buying their own houses there develops actue overcrowding.

War promises

These workers, five to six thousand of whom live in Birmingham, were promised better treatment when they were enticed during the war to come to Britain and defend democracy.

Through high-pressure publicity about 25 thousand West Indians left their homes and volunteered for work in munition factories and in the forces.

At the end of the war they were told that their services were no longer needed and many returned home only to face colonial exploitation.

In the war they were better looked after, but they live in slums and are abused.

This feeling was expressed by Mr. D. G. Campbell of the Constructional Engineering Union, when he said at the Birmingham Trades Council meeting:

> "If we need these people let us house them as civilised human beings."

THE Ministry of Labour does not provide hostels for these coloured workers. A Ministry spokesman is reported in the **Manchester Guardian** as saying: "I could find beds for sixty people to-day." The report goes on to say that "These beds would be in lodgings inspected and approved by the Ministry of Labour. It seems likely that these are the very ones that will not admit coloured men, who are consequently thrown back on those that could not conceivably be approved."

Unemployment

ACCOMMODATION is by no means the only ill affecting coloured workers here.

West Indians, Africans, and other coloured workers are hard hit by unemployment. Redundancy is markedly prevalent among those on casual employment.

The employers are using the fear of unemployment among white workers to get rid of coloured workers first.

SOME BIG FIRMS [redacted] even refuse to take coloured workers. Then there are those who in a less direct but nonetheless thorough manner practice discrimination, denying coloured workers jobs on some pretext or other.

Dance Halls

THE SITUATION is very grave here for coloured workers, and in some dance halls they have been refused admission.

ALL these things taken together greatly restrict and frustrate the lives of the 5 to 6 thousand West Indians, Africans, Indians and Pakistanis in Birmingham.

These injustices cry out to be righted.

Freedom Now

THE COLOURED workers of Birmingham are beginning to show their feelings on this score, as the public meeting and demonstration held here on October 12th amply testify.

In this demonstration posters were carried bearing slogans such as "Freedom Now for Africa and West Indies", "END COLOUR BAR IN BRITAIN!"

At a public meeting after the demonstration, resolutions were passed condemning Britain's Colonial Policy as leading up to the present plight among Africans and West Indians.

THE RESOLUTION passed by the Birmingham Trades Council is a further step to developing the unity of white and coloured workers, without which there can be no hope of ending the colour bar in Birmingham and in Britain as a whole.

LITERATURE

THUNDER—Progressive monthly (British Guiana), 4d. per copy or 5/6 per year, Post Paid.	
FORWARD TO FREEDOM, by Richard Hart	1/-
TERROR IN KENYA—The background: Trade Unions, the Land, Wages	3d.
SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE COLONIES A W.F.T.U. publication	1/-

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BIG BUSINESS FEARS JAGAN VICTORY IN B.G. POLL

From our British Guiana Correspondent.

THE PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY are off to a grand start; hard work and perseverance can now round off some 3 years of political loyalty to Guianese workers and unemployed. VICTORY WILL BE OURS, is the Party's slogan—(Thunder: Jan. 1953) and here are the preliminary tremours of the Big Business/Whitehall Twins:

> " Should Dr. Jagan win a clear majority, AND THIS IS WHAT MANY GUIANESE FEAR WILL HAPPEN, the new constitution will be exposed to a severe strain . . . Their government would be bitterly opposed by the business interests of Georgetown, and by the mining and estate interests of the interior and the coast." THE TIMES BRITISH COLONIES REVIEW, WINTER 1952.

continued on back page

Mr. Sydney King

★
Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan
★

ST. VINCENT wins a round for CARIBBEAN NEWS

THE leader and President of the PEOPLES POLITICAL PARTY, won a great victory for his people and everyone throughout the West Indies. The battle was one of civil rights and by foiling the plans of a government bent on cutting off St. Vincent from the rest of the West Indies and its people, he has won a lasting place in the annals of our struggle for freedom, Federation and National Independence.

A motion for the banning of CARIBBEAN NEWS and all W.F.T.U. Publications figured high on the Agenda of the business before the Executive Council of that colony.

With all the rhetoric at his command, by well considered argument he completely destroyed false attacks by REACTION, winning to his side new allies and scored a victory not only for Caribbean News, but all the West Indies, indeed for a real democracy and a lasting International Solidarity.

Sedition Tactics Fail

Defended by Mr. E. P. Bruyning, of Trinidad, the Hon. E. T. Joshua, M.L.C., was cleared of charges of sedition before the Supreme Court. But still they persevere to displace a great trade union leader and there remains the charge of Public Mischief.

GOODS FOR APPEAL have been lodged with the Courts and the people are prepared to see it out to the bitter end. Every constitutional avenue will be explored and the Privy Council in London be resorted to, if necessary.

This needs hard cash: the workers striking on the sugar estates are doing their bit and our support depends on the response so far throughout the West Indies, to the JOSHUA DEFENCE COMMITTEE, set up in Trinidad. The Defence Committee is supported by the West Indian Independence Party, others including Councillors from the Port of Spain City Council. The address is TREASURER, 10 St. Paul Street, Port of Spain, TRINIDAD.

Kingston, JAMAICA, 17th January.

BOOS GREET CHURCHILL

WINSTON CHURCHILL, Prime Minister of Britain, interrupted his two weeks vacation which he is spending here as the guest of Sir Harold and Lady Mitchell at their fabulous palatial residence " Prospect " in ST. MARY, to attend a ceremony in Kingston, at which he was presented with the Key to the City by the Mayor.

While the ageing war-lord from Downing Street, guarded by the heaviest detachment of uniformed police, detectives, security police, and undercover men from M.I.5 and Scotland Yard yet to be seen here, received the freedom of the City, policemen jostled with demonstrating ex-Servicement, and kept a sharp look-out for other apparently expected demonstrators.

Replying to the City's honour, Churchill's only reference to the squalid conditions he must have observed in the towns, villages and streets through which he motored in Jamaica was congratulations for Jamaica's " speedy " recovery from the hurricane of August, 1951. But he emphasised that he was particularly impressed with the parade performance of the Jamaica Battalion and expressed his appreciation and wholehearted support for the efforts to re-form the West India Regiment.

CATCALLS

Distinct boos and catcalls greeted this speech, and one notable occurence at this function was an exserviceman who broke through the police cordon and demanded a hearing from the P.M. He was, however, prevented by the intervention of four burly policemen, and as observers reported, the drawn pistol of one of the trigger-happy Scotland Yard offiecers.

The man was bodily removed from the scene screaming complaint of his bad conditions of life . . . He had served five years in the Air Force during the War, and to-day he has no work, nowhere to live, no visible means of feeding himself.

Churchill, after spending the night as guest of the Government at King's House, official residence of the Governor, returned to his painting on the North Coast tourist resort section of this Colony.

Trinidad Pay Rise

THE Trinidad Government has reached agreement with F.W.T.U., on behalf of its 10,000 daily paid workers to pay a bonus calculated on the basis of 4 cents per day for every 2 point rise in the Index of retail prices.

Starting at a datum line of 100 in January, 1952 and to 106 points in July 1952. The workers are therefore entitled to 12 cents a day more in wages.

The F.W.T.U. has recently won an arbitration award in a dispute with Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. The award has now finally decided that the wage increase of 3 cents per hour granted by the T. & T.E.C. to its manual employees will be made effective from 15th October, 1950, instead of 1st January, 1951, as originally decided bythe Commission.

DEMOCRACY *versus* DICTATORSHIP

MR. Ken Hill, former political leader and one-time Mayor of Kingston, has ended up supporting reaction and dictatorship against the will of the people who gave him stature. Hill claims that "either Mr. Hart or I will lead their Party. NOT both . . ." Hill demands that the President shall appoint the Executive of the NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY. The progressives who oppose this within the Party are championed by Richard Hart.

It is difficult to overcome the ideology that has suffocated our lives from the times of our grandmothers until to-day. How many other political careerists have fallen into this mire of false power? It is not the first time that we have seen the induced selfishness triumph over the better side of leaders.

Britain is rich with examples, of Attlees, Stracheys, Creech-Joneses. In the West Indies we have the Bustamantes, Adamses, Manleys, Gomeses. Why should we be immune?

The formation of the NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY was forced by mass demands of the people. With the withdrawal of the 4 Hs from the Peoples National Party after Manley has exposed himself and colleagues as wreckers of working-class unity, there would have been a political vacuum.

The Struggle Continues

But the people were victorious, and new blood like the Mitchell twins, Clem McKoy, Chris Lawrence, Harry Drayton (originally of British Guiana) sprung to the fore, and strengthened Richard Hart, a life-long stalwart of the national movement.

These elements were soon to be the BETE NOIR of imperialism, and their allied stooges, viz., the STAR (evening newspaper), etc. The church, too, has played its part but the hard work and sincerity of disciplined politicians can only win the highest commendation in the end.

From our Jamaican Correspondent

The struggle for national self-government is simplified. It is no less intense but the sheep are clearly defined from the goats.

"Forward to Freedom"

The chapter of dictatorship has closed in Jamaica. The forthcoming victories for democracy will first be witnessed by the National Labour Labour Party. Setbacks may occur, but the will of the people will prevail. The victory of the people is a victory for democracy—the first stage to National Independence!

Guided Missile Plan — B. G. Protest

On the occasion of the visit by U.S.-British Military Mission to investigate the possibilities of establishing a radar guiding station in British Guiana, (Daily Graphic, 29th. Jan. 1953) the British Guiana Peace Committee issued the following statement:-

THE recent news of the survey of our territory by the U.S.—British Imperialists for the purpose of extending the U.S. sponsored war project so-called the Florida Guided Missile Range, by building on our territory a radar guiding station for rocket propelled guided missiles, has shocked all peace-loving West Indians and the people of our territory in particular.

IN the event of a World War being declared, the presence on our soil of any military base means inevitably, the bombing of our territory by the oppos-force.

THE existence of the so-called Florida Guided Missile Range under U.S.—British war agreements and the establishment of war bases on West Indian soil constitutes a danger to the lives and security of our people and would involve us in a war against our will.

THIS attempt to further involve the West Indian people in the strategic war plans of the U.S.—British warmongers will be resolutely fought and defeated the united struggle of the Peace-loving West Indian People who are demanding an end to the arbitrary agreements made between the Governments of the United States of America and Great Britain without the consent of our people, the right to National Independecne and the right to choose our own way of life without any interference in our internal affairs, under any pretext whatever, by any other state.

British T.U. Solidarity with West Indies

SPEAKING to the West Norwood Branch of the AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION, at Herne Hill, the Secretary of the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH was heartily applauded, when he asserted that

> **" solidarity between the British workers and those of the colonial territories would see an end, an absolute end, to colonial barbarity and its instigators, the big bosses of the engineering and other British industries."**

The trade union branch had invited a West Indian speaker on the COLOUR-BAR to address one of their regular members' meetings on Friday, 23rd January. Billy Strachan was appointed.

Basing the talk on working-class unity, the coloured West Indian wholly attributed the colour-bar to the schemes of the big businessmen, who owned the colonial companies exploiting tin in Malaya, Cocoa in West Africa, Sugar, Oil, Gold and Bauxite in the West Indies. These same businessmen owned the refining plants in Britain, and these were the same opponents the trade union representatives met here across the negotiating table, when fighting for higher wages and better conditions.

The alliance was obvious; Brother Strachan, hailing from Jamaica himself, gave a few illustrations of conditions.

COLONIAL PARADISE — Mr. Churchill?

Unemployment 1 in 3, or approximately 200,000 from a total labour force of barely 600,000. No dole, one hospital catering in a city of a population of 150,000, with only two doctors for attending out-patients; wages in the sugar industry (largest in island) averaging 12/- per week, with sugar, bread, margarine and butter, and in fact everything else, more costly than in Britain.

The response was a credit to the trade union movement. After referring to the recent arrest of the Hon. E. T. Joshua, M.L.C., President of the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' nion of ST. VINCENT, with the associated treatment by the police, the A.E.U., WEST NORWOOD Branch, immediately voted a donation of £2 10s. 0d. to the JOSHUA DEFENCE COMMITTEE set up in

continued at foot of next column

from column I

Trinidad.

What an example to set the pattern for both sides of a trans-atlantic alliance that will win Peace for the whole world and NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COLONIAL PEOPLE.

£ Treasure Chest £

THE Elizabethan era of dash, death and plunder still flourishes in JAMAICA, in the tradition of British Governors like Sir Henry Morgan—the pirate.

The CARIBBEAN CEMENT COMPANY in the first 11 months of its operation has dug out of our country £150,000. This is a free and gratis present to a few sleek New Yorkers and their business friends in London.

But this is not all; in 11 months of production and trading this new foreign-controlled octopus has

(a) repaid £75,000 it had borrowed,
(b) paid interest of £6 for every £100 invested in Ordinary Shares, and
(c) given away £25 for every £100 stock invested, which is termed a Stock Dividende—20th Century language for 16th Century plunder!

The Cement & General Development Corporation of NEW YORK, are said " to participate in the management" of this new company. Uncle Sam has stepped in and now wants some of the spoils that John Bull has claimed for some time.

Jamaicans can now understand the full and true implications of the Pioneer Industries Laws put on the Statute Books during recent years.

New Constitution for British Honduras

A NEW Constitution has been proposed for British Honduras in a dispatch from Oliver Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, to the Governor of that territory. This arose out of the reports of a Commission of Inquiry and a Select Committee of the Legislative Council.

Under this new Constitution as proposed by Mr. Lyttelton, the Legislative Council will comprise 3 official members, 3 nominated, 9 elected members, and a Speaker appointed to preside.

The Executive Council, chief policy making instrument will consist of 3 official members, 4 members selected from the Legislative Council by the elected members, 2 from the nominated members of the Legislative Council. The Governor will be Chairman and will have a casting vote. The Govenor's reserve powers remain. This line-up a decisively against the elected members.

The biggest gain by the people is universal suffrage which will extend the vote to the poorest workers. But with all, the proposed new constitution brings no real independence for the people of British Honduras. It is a sop handed out by Whitehall to try to calm the rising tide of the mass movement, to try to calm the rising tide of the mass movement, without surrendering an iota of its stranglehold.

A general election may be held in January, 1954.

Jamaica Sugar Estates

Sugar still provides much Sweetness for some people; look, **£38,019** left as a gift, or NETT PROFITS, after all wages, overhead expenses, repairs and depreciation, income and company taxes have been paid!

The published accounts might even give the impression that business has deteriorated, but see what has gone surreptitiously into the idlers' pockets. With glee the shareholders of the capitalist class take £6 for every £100 of the doubled capital over the last year. A year ago they only took £10 for each £100 of half the equivalent.

Easy money, eh! and still the company has £25,339 to carry forward as a sort of reserve —maybe the trade unions will remember this for next crop!

Protests against Brutality

Kingstown, ST. VINCENT.—The St. Vincent People's Political Party recently passed resolutions at a public meeting protesting against the treatment of workers in South Africa and Kenya by imperialist Britain. Demanding an end to the "killing and brutality" the meeting called for solidarity among all oppressed colonial peoples.

British Guiana Strike

Plantation Uitvlugt, BRITISH GUIANA.—The workers of sugar estate Pln. Uitvlugt went on a one-day strike in protest against the threat by Bookers Demerara Sugar Estates to terminate the employment and tenancy on the estate of a factory worker who, it is alleged "abused the adminstrative manager."

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★ Editorial ★

ON April 27th. the people of British Guiana will go to the polls to choose their representatives for the first time under universal adult suffrage.

They will have a chance of selecting a larger proportion of elected representatives than they had under the previous Constitution. But even the most "advanced" Constitution in the West Indies will leave the essential control of power in the hands of Whitehall.

Despite this, however, Guianese have the opportunity of expressing their feelings against colonialism which subjects them to poverty and robs them of their natural riches.

The overriding fact that stands out in the situation is Imperialism and the necessity for mass united action by all classes against this common enemy.

Programme

WHEN they go to the polls, however, the people will have to contend with those who consciously or unwittingly lend themselves to supporting the foreign rulers, and against those who place themselves before the good of the people who elect them.

Fortunately, the people of British Guiana will not be left out in the cold, for they have a Party which has a programme that can meet their problems, and a core of leaders who know what they are about and who put the interests of the masses first. They are not dazzled by favours from the ruling powers.

Outstanding about British Guiana is the People's Progressive Party and the support it has won.

Who likes it?

ONE of the signs of a party standing firm with the people is the hatred of the rulers and the affection of the people for it. Sometimes the influence of the P.P.P. is expressed in a roundabout way. Many Ginanese when asked about the popularity of the P.P.P. would first say "they don't like the P.P.P. in B.B", but when asked further—who don't like it?—the inevitable reply is "The Government. But —the ordinary people support it."

Other amorphous political groupings have arisen, some of which are solely to combat the P.P.P., to try to take away some of its support. But the success of the P.P.P. lies in that it has a progressive programme and approach which suits the people, and no amount of manoeuvring by its opponents can conceal this fact.

A German Young Pioneer makes friends with W.F.T.U. Vice-President, Lazaro Pena of Cuba.

In standing for Federation and National Independence, the party is upholding the best interests of Guianese, and West Indians as a whole. Undoubtedly, if as the TIMES fears, the P.P.P. wins a majority of elected seats in the Legislative Council, this would give an immeasurable lift to the whole question of Federation in the West Indies.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) which has as its principle aims—Federation and Independence of the West Indies—wishes the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana all success in their first real test.

Faithful worker

BILLY STRACHAN, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has had to undergo an operation, as a result of a war injury sustained in the Air Force while defending democracy in World War II. He is now in Roehampton Hospital and will be there for several months.

Billy Strachan has continued to fight unwaveringly and consistently like no other West Indian for democracy for his homeland. Though temporarily subdued, we know that Billy will emerge fighting fit into the arena of struggle for West Indian Independence which he holds dear.

All the best, Billy!

BUCHAREST FESTIVAL

Caribbean News Reporter

IT'S here at last! What everyone between the age of 14 and 30 has been waiting for —the announcement of the Fourth World Youth Peace Festival!

The Council of the W.F.D.Y. meeting recently in Prague announced that the Festival will be held in Bucharest, capital of People's Rumania, from August 2nd to 21st.

The number of participants will be greater and the quality of the entertainments will be even better than at the last Festival in Berlin. And anyone who was in Berlin can vouch for he splendour of the festivities there.

The British Youth Festival Committee meeting in Nottingham on March 1st, with delegates attending from all over Britain and representing colonial youth studying or working in this country, will launch the campaign and activities for getting a bigger contingent from Britain this year.

The cost of the trip will be worked out and announced shortly, but it is to be expected that it will not be much more than the cost for the Berlin Festival.

SAVINGS SCHEME

A savings scheme has been started to make it easier to accumulate the money by now and August. West Indian readers wishing more information about the details of the Festival in Bucharest should write to the Secretary, West Indian Festival Preparatory Committee, 45 Brondesbury Villas, N.W.6.

The cost, which may be £25 to £30, covers travel accommodation, food, all entertainments for the two week period.

This Festival with the accent on the youth of the world getting together for Peace—competing in friendly sports events, and enjoying the cultural contributions from the different countries, will be of tremendous significance for drawing together the bonds of common interests among young people of varying political, religious, and racial backgrounds.

**FORTY-FIVE West Indians went to Berlin.
LET US DOUBLE THAT NUMBER FOR BUCHAREST!!**

MIGRATION IS NO SOLUTION

From Reader-Correspondent Eric Deslandes

IT is becoming increasingly clear to everyone that mass migration of West Indians to foreign countries cannot effectively solve unemployment and other economic problems prevailing in the British West Indies to-day.

I am being reminded of this fact everytime I speak to a West Indian in this country.

Over the past ten years it is estimated that over half a million West Indians have migrated (mostly Jamaicans), and the places they went to include the U.S.A., Great Britain and the Latin and South American republics. Many went on visits, some as students, but the majority are workers seeking better opportunities.

Any West Indian who has been abroad particularly those in search of employment, realises that it is no easy life. For when it is not strange climatic conditions, it is the colour of one's skin which makes all the difference in many countries to-day.

Individual case

Let's take the case of a 36-year-old Jamaican plumber whom I met recently. At the age of fifteen he left school and went to learn plumbing. For the first six months he was paid 2/6d. per week "as an encouragement". After serving this period of apprenticeship he received 7/- per week; and another rise after completing two more years brought his salary to 25/- per week.

He packed up the job after serving five years with the Firm, and started out on his own. He soon found, however, that he was no better off financially as his earnings were inconsistent.

At the outbreak of the War he went to Panama along with other Jamaicans to work on the Canal Zone, where he spent eighteen months. Returning to Jamaica he was soon off again, this time to the U.S.A. as a Farm labourer.

Letters to the Editor and contributions from readers should be reasonably short.

There he stayed for five years and fortified with the modest savings of £400 he returned home in 1949 and deposited a portion of his capital on a house which he needed for his wife and four children. His next move was to find a job which he failed to procure after six months' search. In desperation he decided to try his luck in England where he is now working on his trade earning the average of £ 10s. 0d. a week.

Here is a story which crystallises the experiences of thousands of West Indians.

Hundreds stranded

I know for a fact that hundreds of West Indians are stranded in Britain. I have seen them in Cardiff, Liverpool, Birmingham and London. For some reason or other they have not been able to find and keep jobs. Yet always when you ask them: "Why don't you go home", it is always the same answer—the fear of unemployment. This fear is made even more poignant by the absence of properly organised Labour Exchanges, National Assistance, unemployment benefit and free health services in the West Indies.

It was pointed out to me recently that there are over 1,000 West Indians with University degress in Britain alone. Hundreds more are in the U.S.A. and Canada. The West Indies could benefit greatly from the knowledge and experience of these "sons of the soil", but they prefer to remain abroad where they earn a more lucrative salary.

There is another aspect of the whole situation which must not be overlooked too.

When West Indians are forced through unemployment to migrate and suffer exploitation or the consequences of a colour bar policy, the majority return home very nationalistic. I formed this impression by the remarks of several West Indians whom I have spoken to on the subject.

What they think

Mr. Sydney, a 26-year-old electrician from British Guiana had this to say: "If by the attitude of the British people, we are convinced that we are not wanted here, then why should we roll out the red carpet to them in our country?"

Another West Indian, 24-year-old J. Vass Jackson, a book-keeper from Kingston, Jamaica, expressed similar views. He told me: "I have learnt by experience that the average British person knows precious little and cares infinitely less about conditions in the Colonies to-day."

As I said at the outset, migration is not the answer to our economic problems. More and intensive industarialisation is the only way out, and this should receive greater impetus when Self-Government and Federation becomes a reality.

Whose failure?

In the meantime, the pertinent question arises—Is it Colonial administration which has failed in the West Indies, or could it be that West Indians themselves are to be blamed for current conditions?

Evidence on all sides points to the former. For West Indians have proven by their very willingness to work, by the fact that they are migrating in the thousands, that had opportunities been available to them at home then they would have made a success of life there.

West Indian Youth discuss their problems

IN spite of the many utterances of improvement and progress in the colonies by British colonial rulers one has only to study the facts or have a look around to see the magnitude of the lie.

For instance, in Jamaica 50 thousand young persons between the ages of 16 and 23 are unemployed, and one in every hundred children in primary schools has the chance of a University education.
In British Guiana 90% of the children examined showed evidence of dental caries—a sign of nutritional deficiency.

What a gloomy prospect for West Indian youth. But do we have to be satisfied with such conditions and leave them unchallenged?

The West Indian Youth Conference to be held in London on the 1st March gives West Indians in Britain the opportunity of answering the question.

Here the rights of West Indian youth to employment, education, social security, social and recreational facilities and holidays with pay, is to be discussed. The majority of West Indians in Britain know only too well the problems here and in the West Indies.

At this Conference, support will be given to the International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth to be held in Vienna from March 22nd to 27th. It is hoped that a delegate will be mandated to attend.

Young Dutch workers at the Wester Sugar Refinery in Amsterdam realised the serious threats of a new war, the preparations for which must inevitably cause a decline in their living standards. They knew that the cost to them was to suppress the Indonesians.

On the initiative of the young workers of Wester Refinery who have found united action necessary, the Word Federation of Democratic Youth agreed to organise the Conference.

This common platform on which the youth of many countries can meet and demand their rights is necessary in no small measure.

THE WEST INDIAN YOUTH PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SENDS GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH, VIENNA, MARCH 22 - 27.

. . . and in B.G.

From our British Guiana Correspondent
GEORGETOWN

YOUNG people assembled at the Colony wide Conference for the Solution of Problems Facing Youths and Youth Movements held in Georgetown on January 31st and February 1st called upon Government to solve the problem of unemployment among the youth. This Conference summoned by the Pioneer Youth League also passed a resolution demanding political freedom for all workers. This was pointing to the recent government ban on political activities for civil servants and government employees.

The Conference requested that the Technical Institutes be open to all youth leaving primary and secondary schools and demanded that a Committee of Inquiry be set up to go into the conditions of work of young mechanics and engineers with a view to setting out a minimum wage scale.

BOSSES TRY TO BREAK UNION

GEORGETOWN, Feb. 4th

THE B.G. Shipping Association has broken off negotiations with the B.G. Labour Union stating in a letter yesterday: " . . . in the light of recent events, the interests of workers and employers and indeed of the Colony, are seriously prejudiced by the fact that the principal executives of the British Guiana Labour Union have openly allied themselves with an organisation led by persons whose activities, in the view of this association, are not in the best interests of the workers or the welfare of the Colony . . . To enable the negotiations to proceed, therefore, it is up to the workers themselves to reorganise their union affairs so as to give the union a better status, by choosing representatives who will have at heart the interests of the workers and the waterfront as a whole, and command the trust and confidence of all concerned."

The employers have been making several efforts to break the union since the time certain officers have been connected with the People's Progressive Party. Recently, 12 workers active in the union were victimised and as a result have been unable to obtain employment. This flagrant violation of trade union principles has shocked observers here.

* * *

INFORMATION has reached Caribbean Peoples News Service that copies forwarded are not being received in London, though they have been regularly mailed there. Apparently the Churchill boys are at their usual game of pinching and suppressing information.

CPNS requests that all our readers write our address by registered mail so that we can check on the "pinching" of the imperialists.

A Reader's View on FEDERATION

THE Federation of the West Indies is imperative not for the creation of administrative capacities nor for the power to injure neighbouring states, but for the economic production of indispensable commodities on which the health and prosperity of our entire society depend.

To pave the way for a profitable unification of the West Indies, individual states should commence without much longer delay the reclassification of lands and a down-to-floor industrial survey. A reclassification of lands based on an analytical framework would enable us to determine the true nature and acreage of arable lands throughout the West Indies, and an industrial survey to give exactly what each country could produce economically.

It is no use trying any longer to be the world's most perfect customers and pay through the nostrils for the products of other countires, while the industrial evolution of the entire West Indies is hampered through lack of sales in countries beyond the Caribbean border. The population of the West Indies is increasing steadily, therefore it is our duty to put into operation every practicable measure to save them from the unpleasant consequences of an empty cupboard.

The amount of capital investment which countires outside the West India group of islands is allowed to invest in the West Indies should now be reduced by 50%, which would allow more West Indian businessmen and women time to emerge and grip a higher percentage of their country's finance.

I wish to see the entire population of the West Indies grow up to be free and independent, which we would never be able to attain once we permit the finance to slide into the hands of absent capitalists.

GREETINGS

— from W.E.B. Dubois

MESSAGE from W. E. B. DUBOIS, renowned American historian, member of the World Peace Council:

"May I send greetings to the World Federation of Democratic Youth on the Day of expression of the Unity and Solidarity of the Youth in the struggle against colonialism.

"I am glad to note the meeting of all students, but especially those of Asia and Africa, for the great purpose of Peace and Freedom.

"I wish you every success."

— from Georgetown

WARMEST greetings and best wishes for the success of Caribbean News, for the success of our long struggle for World Peace, for Bread, for Federation and for the Independence of our country from the oppressive domination of the British Warmongers now plundering our country's wealth in the interest of maximum profit, their rearmanent programmes and the militarisation of the people at the behests of the Warmongers of the United States of America; and from the growing influence of bellicose United States lynchers who, to the intense hatred of their servile British accomplices, are now sinking their grisly talons into the flesh of our people while filing their teeth in preparation for a world-wide slaughter—the base but futile ideal of all such warmongering cannibals.

On behalf of the Peace-loving West Indian People, the British Giana Peace Committee wishes the staff and readers of Caribbean News and all West Indians in England and at home, greater strength and success in the struggle for Peace and Independence in 1953.

(Signed) **Martin Carter** Chairman **Rory Westmaas** Secretary

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We wish to thank all readers and friends who have contributed nearly £3 to our fund to keep Caribbean News on its feet financially. We appeal to our sincere friends not to slacken their efforts but to increase their contributions by collecting from others.

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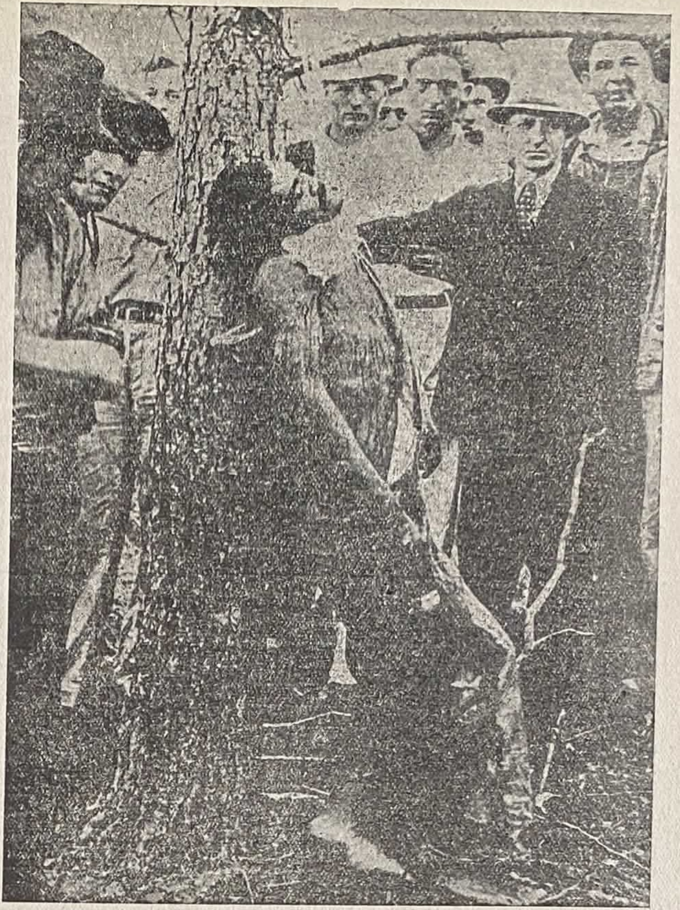
An American Journalist Exposes

FORCED LABOUR IN THE U.S.A.

STETSON KENNEDY, an American journalist, and his wife collected over a number of years detailed information on debt slavery in the United States. This evidence was presented to the United Nations Commission on Forced Labour, and we consider it of such importance that we reprint below extracts taken from the magazine "World Trade Union Movement" of 16-31 January, 1953, by courtesy of the Editor.



In the Southern States, lynch law reinforces the subjection of the negro.

WE soon discovered that things had vastly worsened. Not only has forced labour increased tremendously, but the violence employed to enforce it has been intensified. The forced labourer who has not been beaten with a pistol, club, or lash is a rarity. Among the current evils—generally assumed by the American people to have passed out of existence at least a decade ago—we found:

People being captured, bought, and sold into slavery for as little as $5 and as much as $500 per head.

Men and women allege being tortured and beaten.

People being forced to live in barbed-wire closures and forced to work under armed guards.

People being bound in chains, both off and on the chaingangs.

Women and children being held as hostages to ensure the return of escaped men to slavery.

Workers being rounded up by law officers on charges of "vagrancy," and forced to work for any white men who pay their fines.

Wives of Negro forced labourers being forced to submit to white overseers; if the women or her husband resist, both may be beaten or shot.

Men's wives being taken from them and assigned to live with other men at the pleasure of the overseer.

Let me describe the typical American forced labour camp. In almost every instance they are deep in the woods or otherwise isolated from other communities. The primitive shacks which house the workers are generally one- or two-room affairs constructed of rough boards which are discarded by lumber mills.

The forced labour camps vary in size, with some operations extending over thousands of acres and involving so many families that the owners actually do not know how many people they are exploiting. In such large enterprises the ownership is often absentee—with Wall Street the focal point of much of it.

Commissary Racket

The company-owned commissary, where the workers are required to purchase the necessities of life at exorbitant prices, is the cornerstone of the forced labour system in America. By this means, a majority of the workers are kept perpetually in debt, so that they receive little if any money for their work.

More than 4,200 companies are banded together in the National Industrial Stores Association, and their commissaries do an aggregate business of one billion dollars anually. Authoritative surveys have revealed that in many of these commissaries prices are as much as 60 per cent higher than elsewhere. In addition to those employed agriculture, turpentining, and lumbering, workers in the textile, mining, canning and steel industries have been sorely afflicted with commissaryism.

The food sold by most commissaries is calculated barely to keep the workers alive. Generally it consists of such staples as grits, corn meal, dried beans, salted or smoked fat bacon, and a few canned goods. Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, milk, eggs, butter and the like are unheard of. One forced labourer told us that each Sunday his camp commissaryoffered a choice of "pig ears, pig tails, or pig feet." Another, when asked how often his commisary offered fresh meat, replied: "Neither weekly nor yearly."

Alternative— Chaingang

It is by virtue of debts, real and alleged, owed at the commissary that most of America's forced labourers are held in bondage. The fact that the U.S. Constitution forbids debtors' prisons is without effect. "Don't you know that one can force you to work against your will in satisfaction of a debt?" I asked a group of forced labourers.

"They do it," was their laconic reply.

As the forced labourers themselves put it, the alternative to working out both real and alleged debts is to "chaingang it"; that is, to be sentenced to hard labour on the county road gangs or prison farms.

Though the ball-and-chain have to some extent been supplanted by a three-foot steel spike welded around the ankle, life on the chaingang is still so rigorous that it has become increasingly common for prisoners to cripple themselves by severing the tendons of their heels.

Penalty

The usual punishment for running away is a severe flogging, but sometimes the penalty is death. As a forced labourer named Robert Graves told us, in describing the Babcock Lindsey plantation, "If you left owing the Bossman even $5 and he caught you he would kill you, and you would have to die, because they would bury you. He would make other workers dig the graves out in the woods."

Symbolic of this form of terrorism is the toe of a lynched Negro which reposes in a jar of alcohol on a commissary counter in North Carolina. Asked whether he would personally lynch a Negro, the proprietor replied, "No no, I wouldn't—not unless he owed me money."

Beaten

Cleo Johnson was beateu by a formean at the Dawkin's Turpentine Camp at High Springs, Georgia, for not having fed her husband breakfast in time for him to go to work before daybreak. When her husband Ulysses protested, the foreman clubbed him into unconsciousness.

Charles Andrews was beaten with a pineknot while another overseer held a gun on him for trying to escape from a camp near Bunnell, Florida.

Bobby White, 21-year-old Negro worker at the sawmill of McDuffie Stallworth of Pineapple, Alabama was locked up in a garage, tied, and flogged with a chain for trying to report as ordered to his military draft board.

Sibyl McKee, a Negro girl who cooked for Stallworth, was forced to turn up her dress over her back so he could beat her.

James Day, a Negro turpentine worker, escaped from the plantation of William Balote at Mentor, Georgia. Day's children were held as hostages, and the F.B.I. and U.S. District Attorney would do nothing to help him reclaim them. When Day went into court to force their release, he was jailed on a charge of abondoning them. The Sheriff offered to let him out of jail if he would agree to go back to work for Balote.

On the basis of our observations, the record I had kept through the years, and other reliable sources, we were forced to conclude that at the very least one and a half million native-born Americans are currently being held in forced labour.

"Wet Backs"

It was also discovered that during the past decade, the U.S. Government, at the behest of American planters, has permitted the importation of some thing like four million workers from nearby colonial and semi-colonial areas. The bulk of these are so-called Mexican "wetbacks"—illegal immigrants permitted to come into the U.S. across the Rio Grande River by the U.S. Immigration Service.

West Indians

The next largest group of imported forced labourers consists of Negroes from the British West Indies. During the period from 1943 to 1950, a total of 93,178 of these were brought in with the sanction of the U.S. Government. Besides these, there are about 10,000 Puerto Ricans who are working on U.S. farms under contracts sanctioned by the U.S. Government; and many more have been imported and peonized while the Government turned its back.

But just as the planters must generally pay out so much per head to acquire "wetbacks," they must also post surety bonds with the U.S. Immigration Service in importing contract labour. The bond required is $100 for each Jamaican, $50 for each Bahaman, and $25 for each Mexican. At least a third of the Mexicans who have been brought in under contract have escaped from the plantations to which they were assigned, and in such cases the planters must forfeit the bonds, which therefore are tantamount to being the purchase price of the workers.

These Negroes and whites who live in the Southern U.S. and believe in a real democracy without racial discrimination are deemed by the overlords of the region to harbour "dangerous" thoughts (the Charlston, South Carolina, NEWS & OBSERVER recently said as much), and the forced labour system is one of the means employed to repress such sentiments. Although more and more southern Negroes are defying the terror and marching to the polls, five millions of voting age were deterred from balloting in the national election of November 4.

★ Cricket

TEST WIN FOR WEST INDIES

THE Tour opened in Trinidad where the colony game and the first Test both ended in a draw.

A grand undefeated knock of 153 by Hazare, the Indian captain, was the outstanding feature of the colony game. Someone who was seeing the Indian captain for the first time during this game remarked that Hazare was the most defensive batsman he had ever seen.

In the Test, Everton Weekes made a double century, while young Bruce Pairaudeau, of British Guiana, joined the select band of cricketers who have made a century in their first Test innings.

For India, Umrigar batted well to make a century. The next two games were played in Barbados. In the colony game Weekes again batted brilliantly scoring a double century, but the match ended in a tame draw with Manjrekar scoring a not-out century in India's second innings.

The Second Test was a low scoring game. West Indies batted first to score 296, Walcott being top scorer with 98. India in reply scored 253. There was some good bowling by Valentine whose figures were:

overs	m.	runs	wkts.	
41 —	21 —	58 —	4	Or 4 for 58

Unlucky Indian Start

In the second innings the West Indies fared even worse, scoring 228, setting India 272 to win. The Indian second innings started badly by losing both the openers for only 13 runs, but ended that day at 54 for 2. On the following day there was some fine bowling by Ramadhin, whose figures were 24.5 overs, 11 maidens, 26 runs, 5 wickets. And India were all out for 129, giving West Indies victory by 142 runs.

B.G. Poll

(★ from page 1)

APRIL 27th IS POLLING DAY. A victory for racial unity on a class basis is a worthy prize for all the Guianese who, led by the Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Member of the Legislative Council, and L. F. S. Burnham, Chairman of the Party, have isolated the foreign business exploiters and their hand-picked fifth columnists.

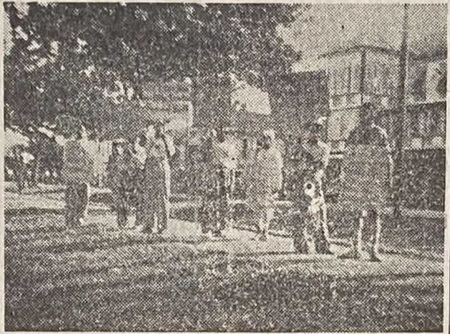
Jagan, of East Indian racial origin, is supported by a white wife who has been tagged by one London capitalist newspaper as THE ANGEL OF THE SUGAR ESTATES; on account of the white sari she sometimes wears out of respect for the fashions of the Indian plantation workers.

Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, successful in the TOWN COUNCIL elections and a former Vice-President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, LONDON BRANCH, has indicated the trend with his victory as elected President of the BRITISH GUIANA LABOUR UNION. Space does not permit the interminable list of supporters that have made the PPP Guiana's Party.

Mrs. Janet Jagan is General Secretary of the PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY, and her greatest tower of strength is **SIDNEY KING,** a Church of England schoolteacher recently returned from the Congress of Peoples for Peace in Vienna, Austria, and from the Hungarian People's Republic.

FREE EXPRESSION

Within the PPP Martin Carter, the leading West Indian revolutionary working-class poet, has emerged. The sugar cane labourers have seen their cases championed by the most powerful working-class party in the British West Indies; the sawmill workers know the sub-employees in the Government service know where to look for support of their demands—don't you see?



People's Progressive Party members protest against ban on Billy Strachan and Ferdinand Smith's entry into British Guiana

All Guiana is going to make it GUIANA, and see the end of both the B for Bookers and B for British.

The PPP is the party for Federation; it is the Party that will give the lie to all the prostituted Press in Britain that misrepresents, lies, distorts, and FEARS THE TRUTH about the West Indies.

These are the platforms that are winning support from the Guianese, that work at MacKenzie, that toil in the Rupini and are a herald of the brightest future for all the West Indies:

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

- **(a) SELF GOVERNMENT FOR BRITISH GUIANA.**
- **(b) Acceptance of CARIBBEAN FEDERATION, with**
  - **1. Dominion Status.**
  - **2. Internal self-government to each unit.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **(c) Effective democratic control of all major industries.**
- **(d) Land reform and properly planned land settlement schemes.**
- **(e) Work for ALL, by economic planning.**

There is in the PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY programme provision for Social Security for the old-aged, unemployment insurance, equal pay for equal work, improved housing, trade union freedom, the fight for Peace, and education for every category all of which add up to the confidence that makes the Peoples Progressive Party proclaim:

VICTORY WILL BE OURS ! !

C. L. C.
DANCES

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN DATES & PLACES

* * *

SATURDAY, March 14th.
London School of Printing
7 - 11 p.m. Tube: Waterloo.

* * *

SATURDAY, April 4th
Royal Hotel
7 - 11 p.m. Tube: Russell Square.

* * *

SATURDAY, June 6th
London School of Printing
7.30 - 11.30 p.m. Tube: Waterloo.

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Colonial Students want better Conditions

from LIONEL JEFFREY
Secretary, Co-ordinating Council

ON the 24th and 25th January a conference was held by the Co-Ordinating Council of British Colonial and Dominion Students. Many readers of Caribbean News will be hearing of the Co-Ordinating Council for the first time. But for all Colonials this conference is of special importance. It is important because for the first time Students from the various Colonies, Dominions, and Commonwealth met as one to discuss and prepare some programme of campaign to combat the common problems and difficulties facing us all in this country.

At the Conference were delegates from various Colonial Student Organisations. To those of us who were present it was strengthening to hear delegates from Africa, India, West Indies, South Africa, Malaya, Cyprus state with one voice their disgust for the treatment to which their Students were subjected during their period of study in this country.

The Problems

The discussion was under three heads:—
(1) Housing and Accommodation;
(2) Education and Study facilities;
(3) Social aspects and Sport.

Under the first head it was pointed out that landlords realising that Colonial Students, because of their colour are always in search of accommodation, look upon these as an easy means of making huge and unreasonable profit. It was further pointed out that the British Council and Colonial Office Hostels are not only inadequate with regard to space but that the rates charged per week put these Hostels out of bound to the average Student. The delegates were also shocked to learn that the rate was not fixed out of consideration of the Student's financial position, but instead, according to the change in the cost of living in Britain.

With regards the second point the conference felt that the amount of places reserved for Colonial and Dominion Students were inadequate. It also felt that because of the inconvenience caused through the unofficial colour prejudice many students are now forced to spend much longer to complete their studies, and this not only throws an unfair burden on the students parents but in many cases leads the Student himself to a state of frustration.

No Social Life

And lastly, the conference proved that because of the lack of integration of the Student into University are the Social Aspects of his Education is sadly lacking. Coupled with this was the complete lack of sport facilities for Colonial and Dominion Students.

The Conference was a great success and it has left the Committee a huge task, but before we can accomplish much every student and every worker must unite in fact and work together as a real Co-Ordinating Council.

LITERATURE

THUNDER—Progressive monthly (British Guiana), 4d. per copy or 5/6 per year, Post Paid.

FORWARD TO FREEDOM, by Richard Hart 1/6

TERROR IN KENYA—The background: Trade Unions, the Land, Wages 3d.

SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE COLONIES A W.F.T.U. publication 1/-

CONGRESS OF PEOPLES FOR PEACE Special report on Vienna Congress - 3d.

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FEDERATION AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE ★

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W

LYTTLETON'S FEDERATION TALKS ARE A FRAUD

THE FEDERATION TALKS scheduled to open in LONDON on April 13th have been devised by the Colonial Office to get together in the main some of the most unrepresentative "representatives" from the various territories of the West Indies, to work out what Whitehall hopes will be a plan to exploit and run the West Indies more efficiently, and at the same time pacify some of the adherents of federation.

These talks are in no way designed to fulfil the wishes of the people for Federation and Independence. For what the British Imperialist Government has in mind and what the West Indian people have in mind when they think of Federation are poles apart.

Even amongst those who have supported the notorious RANCE REPORT there are confusions and second thoughts, as witnessed recently when Grantley Adams, majority leader in the BARBADOS House of Assembly, turned round and attacked the Rance Report, calling for guarantees of freedom of movement in a Federated West Indies (as reported in TORCH, Feb. 7 & 14).

BRITISH GUIANA is to have a senior Government official as an observer at the talks; while British Guiana's biggest and most popular political party which supports a democratic federation will have no say. This illustrates the remoteness from the people and realities of Lyttelton's Federation talks in London. It will not, however, succeed in halting the march of the West Indian people to freedom, whose twin aims are Federation and National Independence.

What REAL Federation means—see our special feature on pages 3 & 4

This West Indian sugar worker is typical of the people who will operate a free, federated West Indies.

Jamaica Workers stand trial

TWENTY T.U.C. members have been charged with intimidation in connection with labour disputes at Hanover, where on January 26th, workers were shot, allegedly by an overseer, at the Orange Bay property of Mr. de Cordova.

The overseer claimed that he was threatened by the defendants, who were demanding work.

The T.U.C. called for sympathy strikes on other sugar cane properties throughout the area.

BRITISH GUIANA RUSHES Through Gag Law

MOVING the suspension of the standing rules of the Legislative Council, the Attorney General yesterday rushed through the second reading of a Bill to ban undesirable literature, films, records and engravings. In the longest session in the history of British Guiana, lasting 9 hours, the bill was passed by an 11 to 2 majority. Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Leader of the militant People's Progressive Party in an heroic one-man battle to delay and defeat the Bill, spoke for six hours, successfully withstanding all efforts to remove him from the floor.

He accused the Government of rushing through the bill before the elections on April 27th, which will be the first under the new constitution which provides universal adult suffrage and a semi-responsible minsterial government. Jagan charged the government with attempting to deny colonial British subjects the rights and freedoms granted to those residing in England. Replying to a statement of the Attorney General that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance", Dr. Jagan asked—"Whose liberty—the liberty of the exploited or the liberty of the exploiters?"

The Bill empowers the Governor in Council to prohibit by order any publication, engraving, film or record which is felt to be "contrary to the public interest". Clause 4 makes it an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment not exceeding 12 months or both for any person to import, publish, offer for sale, distribute or reproduce any prohibited publication. Another clause makes it an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding $250 or imprisonment not exceeding 12 months for any person to have in his possession without lawful excuse any prohibited publication.

For two days People's Progressive Party pickets and crowds of hundreds paraded before the public buildings where the Legislative Council sits. Pickets reading "Is the banning of books part of the Declaration of Human Rights?"; "Ban War, not books", "Oppose fascist legislation to ban our books and keep us in ignorance", "Ban illiteracy not books", etc. Hundreds waited in the rain last night until 11.15 p.m. to hear the results of the debate. The Govenor and legislators were booed as they left the public building.

A special citizen's committee is being set up to fight the many inroads on the civil liberties of the people of British Guiana and it is expected that protests will be sent abroad objecting to the "illegality" of the Bill.

PLEASE NOTE

The address of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) is now:—
17 Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

Postmen defeat I.C.F.T.U. in Trinidad

ON the 18th January, the third annual conference of the Postmen's Union was held in Port of Spain.

The Union, up to 31st December, 1952, had a 88% membership among postmen, but Government has refused to recognise it as the bargaining body for postmen.

The Union holds membership in the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council, which is affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Delegates from member unions of the T.U.C., the Seamen & Waterfront Workers Trade Union (main I.C.F.T.U. affiliate), the Trinidad Labour Party and the West Indian Independence Party were present at the conference. A thorough explanation for the breakaway engineered by the leaders of the I.C.F.T.U. from the W.F.T.U. was given by John Rojas, President of the T.U.C.

When the resolution for affiliation to the I.C.F.T.U. came up later in the conference, only the movers of the resolution reluctantly voted for it. The resolution was defeated almost immediately.

TRINIDAD—*LA ROMAIN* *LAND TENANTS DEMONSTRATE*

MEMBERS of the La Romain United Land Tenants Association travelled by train into Port of Spain on Friday, 13th February to bring to the attention of the legislature and the Government the oppressive conditions of their land tenancy.

Without rhyme or reason, without making any visible improvements, the landlord, one Chandroo, has increased the rental from $5.00 to $15.00 per lot (100 ft. x 50ft.) per year. The tenants have been waging a bitter struggle for months against this unnecessary increase.

The demonstration was met at the railway by Jim Barrett and other members of the W.I.I.P. and taken to Woodford Square where a protracted meeting was held. The riot police were out in force.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ogiere tried to intimidate the demonstrators by informing them that they could not demonstrate without police permission. He was loudly booed and warned that "Trinidad was not South Africa". The demonstrators defied the police and demonstrated through the streets of Port of Spain back to the railway.

Appearing on the same platform that day were T.U.B. Butler, Ranjit Kumar, Pope McLean, Quintin O'Connor, Jim Barrett, John La Rose and Brown of the Tenants' Association. [C.P.N.S.]

STALIN

THE greatest man of our time has left us. Mankind has lost Stalin—a man of the common people who led and inspired the building of the mighty edifice of socialism, the Soviet Union, and who constantly remained in close touch with the people?

Stalin's entire life was devoted to the struggle for Man's freedom and happiness. He gave unstintingly of himself to this cause, and his reward is the undying affection of countless millions in every corner of the earth, wherever men's hearts beat.

He contributed particularly to the theory and practice of the liberation of the colonial peoples. Through Stalin's leadership, millions of former colonial people are now free, and millions more—guided and inspired by his teachings are breaking the chains of colonial oppression.

Stalin is dead, but his ideas live—the ideas of Marxism, which he developed as Lenin did before him and which is now the common heritage of all peoples.

His work for the freedom and equality of the colonial people has earned him a revered place in their memories.

His name symbolises Peace and Friendship among the peoples, Freedom and National Independence and a Better Life for all?

ALL HONOUR TO THE MEMORY OF STALIN.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to that happy couple from British Guiana, Pansy and Lionel Jeffrey, on the birth of their son. The "pickney" weighed in at 7½ lbs. and both are doing fine. We understand that Lionel is also recovering from the ordeal and is bursting with pride in being a Daddy. Reports were silent on whether cigars were handed around.

Pansy is a qualified health visitor, and Jeff is studying economics. All the best to the trio.

Best wishes to Keith Thomas and Helja Huuri on their wedding on 28th. March.

Discounts for bulk supply of *Caribbean News*

10 to 24 of one issue		10%
25 to 49	,, ,,	15%
50 to 99	,, ,,	25%
100 or more	,,	33⅓%

including delivery charges

POWERS *and* PRIVILEGES

ON Friday, 30th January, 1953, the Powers and Privileges Bill was adopted in the legislature by a 15 - 4 majority. The Government in its haste to pass the bill committed a few breaches of procedure.

The Hon. Mitra Sinanan, while attacking the representations made against the bill, felt that it did not go far enough and also wanted to know if the Government was afraid of "a few agitators in Woodford Square".

POLICE RAID

Pickets of the West Indian Independence Party were hampered by rain and a well-timed raid on the premises of John Pool, a member of the Central Executive of the W.I.I.P. The police raiders ransacked the premises for 4 hours in search of banned literature. There is little doubt that the search was intended to dislocate the picketing on the same day. About 30 policemen were on duty around the Legislative Council Chamber.

The bill to reintroduce the "Cat" received its first reading on the same day. Since then the bill has been passed. The Legislature conveniently forgot the description of the "Cat" as "a barbaric instrument of punishment" by a former attorney general at the time the "Flogging" Bill was repealed in 1942.

[C.P.N.S.]

CORONATION *BLAH!*

THE milk and water pomp and ceremony designed for the poor colonials around the Coronation is being stepped up. The inevitable medal will be pinned on thousands of school children lined up to wave little flags and such symbols of "loyalty" (oppression). Already it is reported that one million "officially approved" medals have been ordered for the colonies.

In Jamaica, a slim majority of the Finance Committee approved an increase from £8,000 to £15,000, to be placed at the disposal of the Coronation Committee, over strong opposition.

Mr. Ken Hill, of the N.L.P., estimated expenditure would be nearer £50,000.

The basis of his opposition, however, was that the occasion should be celebrated by the erection of useful amenities like school buildings or water supply schemes to mark the Coronation of the Queen.

But why celebrate at all an occasion which is designed to dope us into accepting the conditions that deprive us of these very schools and water schemes?

We must struggle for our rights to these things without reference to the glorification of the symbol of our oppression. We can only win our freedom by repudiating this symbol of colonialism.

"CN" FUND

The imperialists are attacking "Caribbean News" because they are afraid of it. They have banned it in parts of the West Indies because it exposes the rottenness of imperialism. That is the significance of the attacks on "Caribbean News". Help to keep it going by contributing in shillings and pence to the fund. Give "C.N." the ammunition to carry on the fight.

CARIBBEAN NEWS
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Address:
45 Brondesbury Villas,
London, - N.W.6

★ Editorial ★

Dangerous Thoughts

IMPERIALISM is lashing out in convulsive spasms against the democratic voice of the people. Faced with the rising mood and awareness of the West Indian people, British imperialism and its running dogs, are attacking what little freedoms the people possess. The Colonial Government in Trinidad in banning "Caribbean News" and other publications is closely followed by the "crazy gang" in British Guiana who think like Goebbels that they stop the people's onward march by banning ideas of freedom and democracy and subjecting advocates of independence who even possess such publications to stiff fines and imprisonment.

This ban applies to so-called "undesirable" literature, records, and engravings. Undesirable that is to the big interests which makes tremendous profits out of the Guianese people, undesirable to British imperialism—and it is aimed in the first place at publications which expose the system of plunder.

But like other places, at other times, the results of such sweeping measures have been felt not only by the extreme left, but also by the most mild expression of democratic thought.

It is significant that this bill has been rushed through just before the elections in British Guiana, when the powers that be are fearing a victory for the People's Progressive Party.

On Record

In its first issue, "Caribbean News" placed on record that it stood for the ordinary people of the West Indies, that it would not compromise with Imperialism and would expose the malpractices of the foreign plunderers. The test that the publication remained true to its principles has been proved to the West Indian people by the imperialist bans on it.

But Goebbels' empire cracked before the hammer blows of democracy, and so will British Imperialism in our days. As Martin Carter has expressed it in his poetry—"the sharp knife of dawn glitters in our hand!"

* * *

Billy Strachan Progressing

THE militant Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch)—Billy Strachan—has undergone a successful operation at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, and is progressing satisfactorily.

Friends and well-wishers who have followed his political fight for West Indian Freedom, and who wish to write to him in hospital, should address letters to F/Lt. B. Strachan, Ward A, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, S.W.15.

WEST INDIANS DEMAND

Federation and Self-Government NOW

by Billy Strachan

LIKE a palm fringed fan, the West Indian territories spread across some 2,500 miles from the timber forests of British Honduras in Central America across the Caribbean of sapphire blue, far to the upper reaches of the Essequibe river in British Guiana, South America. The 8,000 ft. twin peaks of Mounts Roraima and Kukenaam at the Brazilian/Venezuelan frontiers, stand guard at this southernmost point.

Census puts the population at about 3½ millions. This includes some 16,000 Caribbeans in the table mountains of British Guiana, 12,000 Amerindians beyond the chichele plantations in British Honduras, approximately 800 Negro-caribs at St. Elizabeth, Jamaica and the odd aboriginal mixtures that might exist along the chain of the Greater or Lesser Antilles.

The Negro racial group is predominant with its varying shades, and account for some 2½ million, followed far behind by the descendants of indentured Indian labourers, about half a million (concentrated in Trinidad and British Guiana). The remainder are the products of the centuries-old melting pot, into which has been thrown, English and Scottish convict and gentry, Portuguese, French, and Chinese traders and settlers.

The economy to-day is agricultural. British civil servants control the official Government machines and operate the pomp and brutality of a Governor.

Notwithstanding the talk of Constitutional Advances in the post-war years, final decisions still remain in the hands of the Governors, who may override any elected legislators' voting, "in the interest of good order and good government". Cases arise repeatedly of the Governors violating unanimous elected members' decisions; as in Nigeria, so in British Honduras, St. Vincent, Grenada. These insults only sharpen the existing tension between the West Indian people and the British overseers in the Caribbean.

Sugar was King

Until 1807, the trading of human beings was legal and recognised as private enterprise for the great seafarers of Medieval England. They set out from London, returning to Bristol and Liverpool on the wicked exploits of building the British Empire. JOHN HAWKINS' name is still remembered throughout the islands. His contribution alone, from Negro slave trading, to the moral and financial debt that Britain owes the West Indian people, haunts every one of our demands. It has been repeatedly recalled in Legislatures and West Indian political conferences.

First the Spanish, then the British, in some cases the Dutch and the French plantation owners destroyed our names, our culture, and our language. For obvious reasons, the only things they could not destroy was ourselves, our labour power. Who would tend the sugar canes, load the sacks of molasses, and bear the white man's burden in everlasting temperatures from sunrise to sunset, between 85 - 95 degrees?

Sugar was king. Profits were high. Poverty was rife.

Early in this 20th century the necessity for some collective bargaining became obvious and the first few steps were taken. British Guiana and St. Vincent vie for the honours, as pioneers in this field; and by 1926, the BRITISH GUIANA & WEST INDIAN LABOUR CONGRESS led by Mr. Hubert Critchlow, of British Guiana, was in existence.

1937 . . .

SLUMP is a permanent characteristic of a colonial economy.

By the end of 1937 our people could no longer bear the oppression and they reacted in exactly the same way as the LUDDITES did early in the 19th century.

Flames raged through the great estates in Trinidad and the winds blew northwards. In Barbados the sparks were alight and at Frome, in Jamaica, the first General Strike took place.

Characteristically, the British troops marched armed to defend the employers and the landlords. H.M.S. warships, AJAX and EXETER fouled the crystal clear Caribbean with a pool of oil, blood and debris, surmounted by a splash of red flame, that indicated the state of discontent.

The inevitable Royal Commission arrived led by Lord Moyne.

An urgent demand unanimously approved by West Indian representatives early in 1938, was for a Federal Constitution for the West Indies.

Early Vision

The earliest demands envisaged a really West Indian Federation, including the French and Dutch dependent territories. There was support from Guadelope and Surinam, but Imperialism had dug deep and barriers were so formidable between the oppressed people, that the final decisions concentrated on a Federation of the British dominated territories.

The key word in the demand from them was SOCIALIST.

Then the War

Every trick of Jingoism revived, and with flags waving 10,000 West Indians went to war against Fascism in Europe; and 90,000 to keep the farms going in the U.S.A. for the granaries of the Allied forces.

All politicical progress stood still. Sir Arthur Richards in Jamaica (now Lord Milverton) and his fellow Governors locked away the politicians and trade union leaders in concentration camps in 1942. They tried to thwart the first positive steps to unity. The reverse was the effect!

Dr. Goebbels played hell with his microphone on West Indians conditions and by March, 1944, the 3rd Congress of the British Guiana and West Indies Labour Congress was meeting to demand Federation and Self Government.

Caribbean Labour Congress

September, 1945, elected representatives from Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia,, St. Vincent, Surinam and Trinidad met in Bridgetown, Barbados. The old B.G. and W.I. Labour Congress, became the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS.

In strident tones, with confident unanimity, our people demanded;

1. Federation and Self Government in a democratic form . . .
2. Social and Industrial Legislation.
3. Representation at U.N.O. and on the Anglo-American Commission.

When the Atlee-Socialists took Parliamentary power May, 1945, they put their University throw-outs to study and scheme.

Creech-Jones' arrival (1947) was the first beacon to show the way the psuedo-intellectuals were thinking.

Sir Hubert Rance, followed two years later as Chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee. Britain's propaganda committee for stealing the Federation platform.

Federation plotting now passed into the hands of Whitehall, a prize for the age-old policy of, "divide and rule".

Imperialism breathed again . . . .

Economic Demands

With the blessing of Elizabeth I, three way trade started on the Gold Coast, West Africa, and thence across the Atlantic, returning laden with spoils to the English shores.

Cabot, Frobisher, and Hawkins seized unsuspecting Negroes, taking 50,000 in one year (1771) and bartered their human live bodies for raw cotton in the American and West Indian colonies.

Through Liverpool (built for this purpose) the Lancashire mills were fed, and finished products were traded in turn to resident slave owners.

The cycle was complete, wealth poured into the British coffers, knighthoods were bestowed. The plantations flourished, and the yeomen of England enjoyed sweetened tea.

WEST INDIES TRADE was surpassing the loot from the East Indies. Like India we shone as a jewel in the British crown against a setting of barbarity and poverty.

After the 1st World War, Lloyd George referred to us as the slums of the Empire and by this time the freemen and mulattoes of the West Indies began to look outside the spheres of sugar.

Dr. Eric Williams, TRINIDAD, Dr. Arthur Lewis, ST LUCIA, Richard Hart, JAMAICA, were only superseded by Sprostons the Bauxite capitalists in British Guiana and the London oil and asphalt companies at Point-a-Pierre and La Brea, in Trinidad.

Industrialisation Demands

Every demand for processing plants to be established in the West Indies territories was refused. Finished cotton and sugar products were costing more to consumers in the West Indies than those in the United Kingdom.

The injustice was severe. After the experiences of the late war, West Indian political and trade union leaders examined the problem more seriously.

West Indians claimed a share in the world wide upsurge for democratic rights and reasonable standards of living. Messrs. Hill and Rojas were off to Paris to the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, with the blessing of every West Indian. The Caribbean Labour Congress meeting in Barbados, September 1945, confirmed this representation. This same Congress demanded:

1. Scientific promotion of agricultural and industrial projects;
2. Protection of local industry against the competitive importation of similar products;
3. " . . . creation of money through a national bank . . . the borrowing by Government . . . **rather than the encouragement of direct investment by the foreign capitalist."**
4. Public ownership of—transport, lighting, power, gas, telephone, cable and radio, and water-power resources.

Here was the true voice of the West Indian people united in action and determined to obtain the maximum good for the many. Grantley Adams, Manley, Gomes, all subscribed to this programme, running with the hare. How soon they were to run with the hounds?

By this time General Marshall, the U.S.A. millionaire and his gangsters were financially embarrassed by the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the Far East.

Knitting mills had sprung up in Jamaica and some of the Leeward Islands; shirt manufacturing had grown apace in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad. Boot and shoe manufacture was not far behind; furniture from the most beautiful lasting woods, including mahogany, thrived in British Honduras, Jamaica, British Guiana and elsewhere This was the threat to the exporters from the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada.

Creech-Jones, Douglas Jay, Cripps and the full-time Tory civil servants were plotting and laying political and economic plans.

The Colonial Development Corporation, Colonial Development and Welfare Funds were established. These arose from economic pressure from usurious America on the shattered British economy. They demanded the abolition of preferential tariffs for British colonials. The Yankees did not rest, the Anglo-American Commission was dressed up and presented as the CARIBBEAN COMMISSION.

These were the reconnaisance forces of the Caribbean imperialists, representing Britain, France, the U.S.A. and Holland. Sixteen commissioners, four from each power, investigated and discussed our economic resources and reported to their masters. Action to be taken executively by private capitalists who are supported by their appropriate national governments: viz., Rugby Portland Cement Co. in Trinidad, Consolidated Gold Fields, British Guiana, Sprostons, Kaiser Bauxite and Steele Bros., also in Br. Guiana.

Already it appeared to come that C.L.C. demands were being conceded.

Imperialism took another gasp . . . .

But, alas, time marches on. Now there are powerful voices throughout the islands calling for:

1. Nationalisation of all mineral wealth,
2. A Customs Union,
3. The lifting of all bans on travel and communication,
4. The abolition of nominated members in Government,
5. The disappearance of the Governors, etc., and
6. A planned economy,

—truly a Federal Self Government.

These are the possibilities for extensive develop-

(continued on next page)

ment in the British held territories of the Caribbean:

JAMAICA

SUGAR, now owned by Tate & Lyle and Jamaica Sugar Estates, producing 300,000 tons annually.

BAUXITE, estimated over 300,000,000 tons deposits, over 90% of world's supply, now wholly owned by the Canadian aluminium subsidiaries, to feed the vast plants in U.S.A. and Canada.

DOLOMITE, for the hardening of steel in vast quantities.

COPPER, MANGANESE, CEMENT and the rest, sufficient to lure the most tight-fisted capitalists in search of higher profits at the expense of lower wages.

BRITISH GUIANA

GOLD, BAUXITE, JUTE, RICE (65,000 tons annually), DOLOMITE and Uranium, each owned and controlled by foreign monopolies. Several of these enjoy capitalisation support from C.D. & W. funds, like Rice, Jute and Gold.

The Yankees, however, hold secure the Bauxite and other minerals, even at the expense of the former landlords of the London Stock Exchange.

SUGAR (221,000 tons annually) remains in the hands of Booker Bros., also of African dis-repute.

TIMBER from nearly 80,000 sq. miles, is the refuge of Steele Brothers, whom the Burmese soon threw out on achieving independence.

TRINIDAD

spells OIL.

From the pitch lakes, asphalt, oil and petrol spout up to nourish the parasites that still reside in London.

SUGAR flourishes temporarily in the hands of Caroni (Tate & Lyle) and Trinidad Sugar Estates.

BARBADOS

—is completely covered with sugar estates producing fat profits. There is now frantic digging for oil, inland and off shore. At this the Yankees beat their old rivals of the Union Jack, and the Gulf Oil Company (U.S.A.) holds concessionary rights.

BRITISH HONDURAS

—supplying CHICHELE for the gum chewing Yankees, have also some of the richest forests for timber, hard and soft woods in Central America.

TIN, to the relief of the London Tin Exchange, (formerly bossed by Secretary of State for the Colonies, Oliver Lyttleton) has been discovered in quantity at Stann Creek, British Honduras.

Britain is Hamstrung

Antigua, British Honduras, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, all contribute to West Indian sugar production of nearly 1,000,000 tons annually. This figure is only limited by the Black Pact of Torquay, 1951, and agreements such as GATT. Britain is our sole purchaser and Britain is hamstrung by treacherous commitments in return for the first post-war loan from the Wall Street pawnshop.

Being tide to Britain, we suffer for the exhorbitant price the U.S. demands for dollar sugar from Cuba, approximately **twice** the price we are paid for British West Indian sugar. In turn our production is limited, thereby affecting one-fifth of our entire labour force. The subsidiary production of BAGASSE in each of the territories towards a paper manufacturing and cardboard industry is an obvious ancillary to our ruling agricultural economy.

Every inch of land is either conducive to cattle ranching, dairy production, poultry keeping or market-garden production such as tomatoes, peas, beans, potatoes and every describable type of fruit.

Our agricultural production is unlimitable in this prolific tropical archipelago; industrialisation could produce miracles for 3½ million suffering people struggling for the right to live.

The land is our solution and all the riches it secrets barely a few inches below the surface. We could support a flourishing West Indian State, and be forever free from Fear, free from Want, and free from Unemployment, IF WE ARE FREE FROM FOREIGN CAPITAL.

Political Independence

"Rance Must Go" (Trinidad)
"Federation & Self-Government" (Jamaica)
"Imperialist Go Home" (British Guiana)
"Give us back our dollar" (British Honduras)

—these are the slogans that speak for the West Indian people to-day.

What progress: within half a century, a colonial people had developed mature trade unions and allied political parties.

By September 1947, the West Indian people had a clearly defined programme for FEDERATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

No aspect rested untouched in the Federation Bill passed unanimously at the 1947 Conference of the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS; the structure of the proposed Federal Parliament, (Executive Council only answerable to the wholly elected Parliament on Adult Sufferage), self-government for each unit, Federal Government to control trade and commerce, External Relations, Regional planning and economic development.

Every recorded advocate from the labour movement has always clearly stated, Federation and Self-Government. Thirty thousand people demonstrated in favour at the "largest political meeting ever seen in the West Indies" at Kingston, Jamaica, 1947.

Shame!

What disillusion spread far and wide when the treacherous Rance proposals were published? Protests saturated the Press, every West Indian voice in New York, London and the length and breadth of our homeland cried "shame".

I recall Grantley Adams, the blue-eyed boy of the I.C.F.T.U. and its Carlton/Wall Street sponsors, telling me in the Regent Palace Hotel in London, that we two were the only socialists in the West Indies, and he intended fighting tooth and nail for the original C.L.C. proposals! We were discussing the abandonment by some C.L.C. delegates of agreed policy, when they appeared before the Rance Commission on Closer Association.

Only Organised Party

The Peoples' National Party (Jamaica), presided over by Manley, allied then to the T.U.C., supported this programme. This was the only existing organised party at that time in Jamaica—notwithstanding the demagogic mass support that Bustamante enjoyed. The then West Indian National Party, Caribbean Socialist Party, Federated Workers Trade Union, the T.U.C. and the Trinidad Labour Party, all from Trinidad, paid their allegiance. From Barbados, the Labour Party, the all-embracing Workers Union and the West Indian National Congress Party, all joined in our united demand. Representatives from British Guiana, British Honduras, Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, all pledged to the 1947 C.L.C. programme and presented the case to Britain.

Some of these bodies have either since disintegrated or defaulted. The British imperialist way of life has sunken deep and wholesale bribery and corruption has played havoc with the people's national movement. This was the fate of a sincere united people, without a scientific ideological leadership.

The Rising Tide

A lasting compromise is, that, as the rotten structures fall apart, great new improved organsations take their place, for example, the Peoples Progressive Party, British Guiana, the Peoples United Party, Br. Honduras, the Peoples Political Party, St. Vincent.

Time was passing, the Indonesians had been swindled, France still waged war in Viet-Nam, the U.S.A. drove on to war in Korea, the Malayans were ruthlessly attacked, the whole colonial world was up in arms, so too BRITAIN ATTACKED THE WEST INDIES??

Freedom of association was curtailed. The Iron Curtain fell on all progressive literature.

The popular Guianese Dr. Cheddi Jagan and his wife were banned from visiting Grenada. Soon the banned lists were lengthened to include Richard Hart, Ferdinand Smith, Ken and Frank Hill, Arthur Henry and myself from Jamaica; Rojas, La Rose and O'Connor of Trinidad; Gairey of Grenada, in fact, everyone that aspired to the aims of the West Indian people, seeking Federation and Self Government NOW. (A worthwhile diversion here is, that Mr. Ken Hill, of Jamaica, though on the banned list by Iron-Curtain Rance of Trinidad, met no obstacle and was publicly fêted when he attended Port of Spain for I.C.F.T.U. ca-canny plotting.) What a price to pay to travel across our own Caribbean?

Trust Betrayed

When the undisciplined trade union bosses, Deakin, Tewson, Murray and Co. broke away from the World Federation of Trade Unions (1948) and destroyed the trade union front against capitalism, the Anglo-American fifth column starts on a wild rampage of subversive activities.

Besides Malaya, South-East Asia, India and Africa, they infiltrated into the West Indies.

First attempts were to capture the Caribbean Labour Congress. This failed and at Berlin, 1952, the next decision was to try to destroy the organsation. Although some of the leadership of this body had betrayed its trust in supporting the notorious Rance proposals; the C.L.C. programme remained on record.

It was a rallying point for every self-respecting West Indian and some elements within the C.L.C. relentlessly pursued propaganda supporting the original demands. West Indians desponded, and it was this strength that rebuffed the Anglo-American tactics.

The Class Structure

Increasingly, the West Indian people are supporting Labour leadership. Increasingly, too, they are more discerning and successfuly sorting out the patriots from the doubtfuls.

Wage labour predominates in the Caribbean, approximately 950,000 souls. Small scale peasantry has rapidly disappeared to the benefit of Tate and Lyle, Booker Bros., the Bauxite combines and other monopolies. Few small holdings exist—those that do, supplement their incomes by wage labour on the larger estates and therefore form strong links with the organised trade unions.

The small groups of local industrialists are smothered and the smaller group of shop-keepers are indebted to the big Banks—Canadian and British.

Literally a handful of local capitalists survive as agents for imperialist concerns and are securely in their debt.

Figures Suppressed

Unemployment is chronic. In 1951 the British Government in disgust shut down all the statistical departments dealing with unemployment figures. Estimates run to the half million mark. No dole, no social insurance, no old age pension, no security.

Over 200,000 would-be school children have no school accommodation. Trinidad and British Guiana tried shift systems, shortening the school hours and reducing the school leaving age. Prisons are crowded, conditions are sub-human, ten persons to a 10 ft. square cell without a stick of furntiure, prostitution, crime and corruption reach alarming proportions.

The people are suffering, and instinctively draw closer. The bonds of unity have been strengthened and every blow by any Governor, in Belize, St. John-Antigua, in Kingstown—St. Vincent, resounds throughout the islands, echoed by vociferous protests and demonstrations.

Growing Unity

Overseas service in Britain's armed forces and farming in the U.S.A. "deep south" have all contributed to this developed unity.

Poverty is the common denomination brought about mainly by King Sugar—an exacting master! The level of wages is even, and the jagged peaks of the cost-of-living tower beyond the reach of most wage earners.

All the contradictions are present. Communications have speeded up. Sweeping North Korean victories? in the earlier stages of the American aggression was received with revelry in the streets and on the savannahs. The mass of literature produced all over the world finds its way to the crowded street-corners, jammed with the unemployed—there, the lone scholar will read to his audience with much expression and feeling.

The Reckoning

When the chosen few meet in London to be instructed by Lyttleton and his team on April 13th, his task will not be as easy as even he might anticipate.

These men have to return home and some will have to face their electorate.

The wheel of progress is spinning fast—a mere handful can only be a nuisance.

The real demands of the West Indian people are:

1. Adult suffrage.
2. Self-Governing status
3. Federal Parliament based on proportional representation, with minimum representation for each territory.
4. Complete control of Home and Foreign affairs.
5. The right to decide War or Peace.

The Prime Need

We will plan for plenty; we shall return the land to the peasants, our national bank will provide credit for development, there will be no essential distinction between town and country.

Unemployment will vanish, compulsory social insurance with sufficient hospitals will provide for all. The dole will be equivalent to a living wage, every child will have a place in a clean government-controlled school. Education, elementary, secondary and technical will be free.

National borrowing and mutual trade with other co-operative Governments will boost the national production from approximately 27/- per head per week to four or five times that figure. Local manufacturers will be protected by tariffs and the nation will flourish.

For this, we need first, POLITICAL POWER.

With political power, we shall ban—yes, we will ban the entry of the Rances and the Yankee economic invaders.

We, too, will destroy the shacks in Kingston, Georgetown, Bridgetown, Port-of-Spain and St. Georges—ah, but then the former residents will move straightway into the newly built houses, like those on the hill, with modern sanitation, electricity and wide verandahs.

At the last post, all the vermin will have scattered and the West Indian people, secure in the camp of Peace and Socialism, will truly enjoy, FEDERATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

West Indian Youth makes Friends in Berlin

WEST
INDIES
YOUTH

Happy Festival of YOUTH in FRIENDSHIP

THERE will be singing and dancing in the streets of Bucharest this summer. Joyous melodies will echo from thousands of young voices in a multitude of languages.

BUCHAREST, capital of People's Rumania, will become the peace capital of the world's youth for two whole weeks when the 4th World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship opens from August 2nd to 16th.

During the Festival tens of thousands of young people from over a hundred countries will meet as the guest of Rumanian youth.

Those who went to Berlin in 1951 for the 3rd World Festival have vivid memories of magnificent cultural shows, sports events, films, sightseeing tours, and many friends made.

In Bucharest this year, the spectacular cultural performances will be even better. The number of young people going to Bucharest will be greater than at any previous Festival.

What is the Festival

First in Prague 1947, then Budapest 1949, Berlin 1951, and now Bucharest. Every two years these Festivals of Youth have been sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students, bringing young people together to compete in friendship and enjoy the best in each other's culture.

For the duration of the Festival there will be a continuous series of attractions. The events will be so numerous that it would be impossible for one person to see all of them even if he never went to sleep—what with simultaneous film shows, athletic events, cultural performances—in the open air before thousands and in the best theatres day and night, banquets, tours of factories and places of interest, meeting youth from other lands, and the indescribable electric atmosphere of young hearts beating in friendship and happiness until late into the night, dancing in the squares and streets of Bucharest. Events to suit the tastes and choices of everyone.

Who can go

Anyone can go to this international Festival. There are no bars of politics, religion, race, or colour. Any young person up to the age of 30 can go. The emphasis is peace and youth friendship in practice.

How to get there

The cost is £37 all in. This includes travel to and from Bucharest and travelling in Bucharest, all food—and the best at that!—good accommodation, and admission to all cultural performances, films, sports events, etc.

The best way is to start saving from now, and for this there is available a special savings scheme with the Festival Committee.

The first step is registration, with a deposit of £2. All interested in knowing more about the Festival and the plans of the West Indian Festival Committee for West Indians going to Bucharest should fill in the form on this page and send to West Indian Festival Committee, 17 Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

West Indian CULTURAL Contribution

THE youth festivals provide an excellent opportunity for young people to display their culture in song, dance, and drama to literally—the world.

We can be sure that youth from Russia, France, China, Britain, Rumania will be doing their best to uphold the culture of their lands.

West Indians also have a vital, growing culture, expressed in song, dance, poetry and drama. We should therefore grasp this opportunity to put forward a really good cultural programme in Bucharest—something that will not shame or belittle the West Indies.

Our people have found from experience that our songs and music particularly capture the hearts of others and win ready response wherever they are heard.

We are not in the position of trying to invent something from nothing. We have the material and the talent. We have only to bring both together at the right opportunity in an organised way.

TALENT

It would be an absolute triumph for the West Indies if the delegation to Bucharest includes the talent so commonly found amoung our people.

Some have thought that because of the size of our country we could not have much influence or prestige on a world scale. Whether this is so or not, can anyone say, however, that West Indians cannot play a leading part in their cultural contribution?

PLANS

The West Indian Youth Festival Committee calls upon West Indians who can contribute in some way to our cultural performance in Bucharest, to contact the committee now, so that arrangements for rehearsals and for travelling to Bucharest can be made. It is not only the professionals we are inviting, but anyone who can do a bit of something. For that matter anyone who is prepared to rehearse singing calypsoes.

A simple script will be worked out for a dramatic presentation of the West Indian people's struggle for national independence, which could be understood by non-English-speaking people—relying more on actions than words. Here is a chance for budding dramatists and script writers to come forward and exercise their talent.

The atmsophere at such a Festival is such that if West Indians don't know their songs they would be at a loss when youth of other countries are singing and doing their stuff, informally on the squares and whenever they meet each other. **So let's get organised now—West Indians!**

SPORTS

For those interested in sports, the friendly mass sporting events will provide ample enjoyment and opportunity for showing one's prowess in almost any aspect of sport.

Don't hesitate! Fill in the form on this page now!
WEST INDIANS, FORWARD TO BUCHAREST!

To WEST INDIAN
Festival Committee
17 Bishop's Bridge Road,
London, W.2.

Please send me more details of the World Youth Festival in BUCHAREST.

Name ....

Address ....

....

WHAT YOUTH FRIENDSHIP MEANS TO *US*

YOUNG people find it easy to make friends. It is more to one's heart for youth to meet in friendship through dancing, singing, sports, camp fires . . . rather than over the sights of rifles.

Young people are the ones who bear the burden in war, who have most to lose in cutting short and wasting their young lives. Those who profit by war have sought diligently to breed hatred and contempt in the minds of their young people to get them to fight the youth and people of other countries. They try to prevent young peoples from getting together with youth of other countries against whom they plot war. These dealers in the lives of youth would rather see young people meet in combat, to make the cash registers tinkle.

This has particularly been the method used by the rulers of colony-owning countries, inculcating in their young people contempt and callousness towards the oppressed people in the colonies. The principle "divide and rule" is the golden guide for the imperialists. For, by keeping "their" people and the colonial people apart, they are able on the one hand to exploit the colonial people and on the other hand to maintain their rule over the working people of their own countries.

Bosses benefit

For example, the British rulers were able to send Lancashire Fusiliers to hunt and shoot people in Kenya, at a time when Lancanshire was in the throes

(continued on page 6)

★ CRICKET in BRITISH GUIANA

★

From MICHAEL V. ANNIBOURNE

★

THE five-day match between British Guiana and the touring Indian team which began on Wednesday, 4th March, was abandoned on the final day when heavy rainfall made play at Bourda impossible.

A crowd of 8,000 turned up throughout the entire match from all corners of the country to see the Indians, who are now visiting British Guiana for the first time.

British Guiana batting first scored a paltry 182 for 7 on the next day, Vinoo Mankad and S. L. Gupte in a marathon attack of 83 overs without a change, keeping down the rate of scoring. The three remaining wickets added 108 runs to reach 290. On the third day, India reached 377 for 8, but failed to push the score along after they had passed British Guiana's total.

On Saturday the start was delayed on account of rain during the morning and play was interrupted on two occasions. The Indians' total reached 398, giving them a lead of 108 runs. B.G. then hit up 82 for one wicket, Bruce Pairaudeau giving an attractive display for 54 not out, while Glendon Gibbs was 27 not out.

Outstanding batsman in British Guiana's first innings was L. Wright, who gave an outstanding performance in scoring 79. He batted soundly and confidently and was mainly responsible for his side withstanding the steady but pentrative Indian attack.

B.G's burly pace bowler, John Trim, cutting and driving powerfully, treated all the bowlers alike and compelled the majority of fieldsmen to keep duty on the borders of the boundary lines whenever he shaped up.

Outstanding batsman in the Indian first innings was Vijay Manjrekar, who made 169 in 375 minutes. Though known to be an adventurous batsman, he did not live up to his reputation.

FOURTH TEST

AT the time of writing, the Fourth Test has begun A record crowd of about 15,000 enthusiastic cricket fans witnessed the opening day's play at the G.C.C. ground, Bourda, while over 1,000 others had to remain outside, being unable to gain admission. The gates had to be closed shortly after noon, and officials were forced to place extra seats.

The day was one of brilliant sunshine, the best for a week and a half, and the wicket and ground were in excellent condition.

Hazare won the toss, to give his side the big advantage of having first knock under the ideal conditions. The wicket was easy paced, although taking spin, but the batsmen failed to take full advantage, the rate of scoring being very slow at the start and at various stages throughout the day. The score at the close of play was a paltry 182 for 6 wickets, 79 of those runs being added during the last 80 minutes of play.

* * *

The Fourth Test ended in a draw.

Youth Friendship

(★from page 5)

of severe unemployment . . . illustrating that the British working people do not benefit from colonial exploitation. Only their bosses do . . . the very bosses against whom they have to struggle to protect their conditions and wages.

The picture is the same for the West Indies. The only ones who now benefit by keeping West Indians in political slavery and poverty are the handful of big companies who exploit the riches and labour of West Indians.

The Governors and their supporters are maintained by Whitehall to protect the interests of these companies who dread the unity of the British and West Indian workers . . . a unity which, when achieved, with the other colonial people of Britain's Empire, would put an end to the sway of the foreign rulers in the West Indies.

But young people are breaking through the barriers put up against their meeting in friendship. They got through Innsbruck to the Berlin Festival despite the brutality of the Yankees who tried to stop them.

Everywhere the young people of the metropolitan countries, ground down and restricted in their own opportunities for development because of the wars of their rulers against the colonial people, are extending their hands in friendship to the young people in the colonies struggling for their national independence.

So also are the progressive youth of Britain holding out their hands in friendship to West Indian youth. They are calling for an end to the wars against the peoples of Malaya, Kenya and Korea, for full freedom for the peoples in Britain's colonies, including the West Indies.

They are seeing this in direct connection with their campaign to cut the 2-year call-up. They say that if 2 years' conscription is necessary, as the Government claims, because of the commitments in Malaya, Kenya, Egypt and Korea . . . they are saying to their Government; **then end these commitments!**

And more and more young people in Britain are coming to realise this. As Ben Birnbaum said in report on the Festival at Nottingham, "Friendship means allowing others to have the rights you have yourselves . . . The colonial people don't want to take an examination for political freedom."

If we West Indians, on our part, are also clear on the need for building friendship with young people of other countries, and particularly with the young people of Britain, then we will be on the road to forging the doom of British Imperialism.

In Bucharest this August we shall have the opportunity to demonstrate our friendship, in practice, with the young people of all lands.

PRITT WELCOMED BACK FROM KENYA

OVER two thousand people, including many from the colonies—Africa, West Indies, etc.—welcomed D. N. PRITT, Q.C., on his return from Kenya, at the Royal Hotel, London.

Mr. Pritt spoke briefly, thanking those present, but said he could not talk about politics in Kenya as the case was not finished and he might have to go back there.

Mr. Koinange officially welcomed this courageous and indefatigable fighter, expressing the appreciation all colonial people felt for his heroic defence of the people's leaders in Kenya, including Yomo Kenyatta.

It was a fitting tribute to a Briton who has tirelessy defended the colonial peoples against the legal attacks of imperialism.

During the reception, many colonial students and workers took the opportunity to speak to Mr. Pritt and express personally their appreciation for his good work.

What West Indians
want from
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Come and discuss it
HOLBORN HALL
Sunday, 12th. April, 3 p.m.
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Vienna Youth Conference

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Join the C.L.C. *now*

May 1953

CARIBBEAN
NEWS 6d.

THE WORLD BANK MOVES IN

Yanks grab Jamaica's mineral wealth

by BILLY STRACHAN

WITH a fanfare of radio, press ballyhoo and glistening new air-lines, U.S.A. businessmen dived in on Jamaica early in 1952, calling themselves the World Bank Mission. They pried into our raw material reserves, insulted our Trade Union leaders, flaunted themselves with grandeur and rode cock-a-hoop through our countryside.

Some months later; nett result:
" 143,000 NEW JOBS IF GOVERNMENT CAN FIND £34,324,000 "
(headline *Jamaica Times*, 10.1.53)

We will NEVER have £34,324,000 UNTIL we have 143,000 of our unemployed fully occupied in jobs, agricultural or industrial.

The World Bank Mission Report is a study of the latest technique used to confuse colonial people. Today we are all wide awake. A few are lazy and they are therefore easy bait for corruption. They are promised a mess of pottage in return for their birthright, and they succumb.

In Jamaica the Yankee monster is after bauxite, his appetite is insatiable. The machinery in the aluminium plants in the U.S.A. and Canada stands idle **if** they don't get our **red earth.** The Bustamente gang in the name of our people have accepted 1/- per ton royalty. What a bargain for capitalism that is moribund in the North American continent and dare not stand up to the inevitable mass unemployment that arises from the sheer inefficiency of a system that cannot provide for mid-20th century standards of living!

World Bank Demands

Four main points stand out in this U.S. businessmen's Charter for U.S. profits:

- (a) **Birth Control and Emigration.**
- (b) **More taxes for consumers; the majority working people.**
- (c) **Lower Wages.**
- (d) **Industrialisation postponed indefinitely.**

(a) We are promised—if we can magically conjure the £34 million odd—that there will be 143,000 additional jobs available by 1962. To-day, we have in Jamaica 250,000 unemployed; 150,000 children of school age with-

continued on page 4

For the U.S. business-man, the West Indies are both pleasant and profitable—and who cares about the people who live there? They're just cheap labour to him

---

STRIKERS FIGHT BACK

From DUDLEY MITCHELL Kingston, 2nd. March. (Delayed in transit)

OVER 700 workers, all members of the National Workers' Union, employed by Alumina (Jamaica) Ltd., went on strike two weeks ago demanding wage increases. The strike, called to enforce a demand for a flat 4/- rate per hour for unskilled workers and 10/- for skilled workers, shows no sign of reaching a settlement.

The American Bauxite plunderers bluntly refuse to meet this demand, and are now making a counter-offer of 2/11 per hour for unskilled workers and 4/- for skilled workers. This counter-offer has been flatly rejected by the Union under pressure from the workers.

At the opening of the negotiations last month, the Union was assisted by a representative of I.C.F.T.U. who flew down from Washington specially for the purpose. Two conferences were held during the last two months which ended in deadlock.

The management subsequently issued a circular dis-regarding the Union and telling the workers that the rates proposed in the counter-offer would be paid as from the first pay day in March. This anti-Union stand angered the workers, and as a result of the mounting indignation, the Union officials were forced into action.

Workers Militant

The attitude of the Union leaders could be seen when in a half-page advertisement in the "Daily Gleaner" the Managing Director charged the Island Supervisior with agreeing secretly to the issuing of the circular containing the Company's rates to test the reaction of the workers, presumably to sell out the struggle for higher rates. This treacherous attempt, however, has failed; and the workers now take their places militantly on the picket lines where they will remain until their demands are met.

St. Vincent bans 'News'

AFTER a previous unsuccessful attempt to ban "Caribbean News," the Administrator in St. Vincent has stepped in with a ban on several publications including "Caribbean News," all publications of the World Federation of Trade Unions, "Thunder," organ of the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana, and the "Torch," weekly newspaper of Barbados.

These publications have been banned retroactively according to reports reaching us. This a very dangerous measure, following in the wake of the bans on literature which preceded it in Trinidad and British Guiana.

The Hon. E. T. Joshua, people's elected representative on the Legislative Council, is fighting valiantly against these attacks on the liberties of the people. Protests have been sent to Lyttelton.

Memorial Meeting in TRINIDAD

On the death of Stalin, the West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad sent a cable expressing sympathy to the Soviet Embassy in London. The Party also held a well attended "Stalin Memorial Meeting" in Woodford Square on March 11th.

★ MAY DAY GREETINGS

MAY DAY this year will be celebrated by West Indians as a mark of solidarity with workers of other lands in the fight for Peace and National Independence.

Last year we were the largest Colonial group in the memorable demonstration in Coventry.

In the West Indies plans are well on the way to record-breaking demonstrations. While in London we shall be taking part in the great British working class demonstration converging at Hyde Park on Sunday, 3rd May.

This paper sends warmest fraternal greetings on May Day to British and West Indian workers in strengthening the bonds of international working class solidarity.

From TRINIDAD

ON the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of May Day, the West Indian Independence Party of T'dad & Tobago sends fraternal greetings to our comrades in London.

May Day, 1953, finds the West Indian peoples more solidly united in the struggle for Peace and National Independence despite violations of our civil liberties, despite brutal repressions, despite bans on travel and literature, despite the acts of the British Colonial rulers aided by the American magnates aimed at suppressing our just struggle.

Confident of the support and solidarity of the world camp for Peace and Socialism and of other subject colonial peoples, let us West Indians unite more solidly and resolutely to finally expel foreign rule and usher in a new life of Peace and happiness for our peoples.

Long live the UNITY of the West Indian peoples.

Comradely,
JOHN LA ROSE—Prov. Gen. Sec.

Letter

CIVIL LIBERTIES

THE Editor :

MR. SYDNEY KING, Schoolteacher, elected member of the Buxton Village Council, Asst. Secretary of the People's Progressive Party and delegate of the British Guiana Peace Committee to the Congress of the People's for Peace held in Vienna, returned home on the 5th March, 1953.

On his arival at the Airport, Mr. King was subjected to a shameful display of American gangster methods on the part of Her Majesty's Police. Mr. King, immediately upon arrival, was flanked by a Customs Official and a Sub-Inspector of Police, marched to an enclosed room, stripped and searched. His personal possessions were ransacked. Personal documents in his possession, including his private diary and educational material for personal use and for presentation to our Committee and other organisations in the territory, were seized and retained by them. This search lasted nearly two hours.

All his possessions with the exception of a few articles of wearing apparel were placed in his valise which was sealed in his presence. Subsequently, at an interview with the authorities, a list, allegedly of the contents of his valise, was produced by the authorities. Mr. King protested that the seal of his valise must have been broken and the contents examined in his absence. A few days later he was called by the authorities and handed a small parcel of some of his belongings. The greater amount of his property including almost all the literature of an educational nature had been retained by them.

We consider this treatment, usually practised against criminals, an abuse of the rights of the individual and as such, a gross violation of Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations. We are therefore asking your support and help in bringing this latest attack on the Civil Liberties of the people of colonial territories to the National Council of Civil Liberties and other democratic organisations in England.

(Signed) R. WESTMAAS, Secretary.

For W. E. Burghardt DUBOIS

FOR you who taught me how to know
How reverence Africa my mother
So licensed me
To stand full man with any other
And so stand free
This small token of the debt I owe

LET me exalt you forever praise your name
That you excised my deepest shame
Bondage to the thought of men who hate me
Eat my blood
and to enslave me
Would teach me hate myself
Despise my people's fame.

Peter Blackman.

WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME ★

NEARLY 500 West Indians and their friends attended the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) Grand Dance at the Royal Hotel on Saturday, 18th April.

World famous Calypsonian Lord Beginner, the Guest Artist, was in top form and everyone gave him a prolonged applause after he sang his "Federation Calypso."

Lord Beginner highlighted the occasion with impromptu calypsos with his audience as the subject. Judging from reports after the dance all had a "great time."

PROFITS: FORCED LOAN

THE Government of Jamaica, under Sir Hugh Foot, advertised for a loan of £3,590,000 on 7th April, 1953.

This is the story.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies "on behalf of the Government of Jamaica" informs us that £840,000 was forwarded by Colonial Government funds.

Here are the promises that were made in our name to the plutocrats who had so much swag that they didn't know what to do with it:

1. To get £100 of stock they need only pay £97 10s.
2. Every £100 stock will earn at the rate of 4¼%.
3. First £1 10s. of interest on £100 will be paid on 15/10/53.
4: All principal will be repaid not later than 15th April, 1978.

"The loan and the interest thereon, the property of persons not resident in Jamaica, will not be subject to any taxes, duties, or levies by the Government of Jamaica."

A very rash statement; but it did the trick and the loan is reported as twenty times over-subscribed.

But no wonder! The loan is secured on our general revenue and our assets, AND "we" have promised to forego the right to tax or levy any non-resident lenders.

Well, well, well, a Marshall, a Truman or any other pawnbroker couldn't have done better.
But it is such a long time to 1978, I wonder. . . .

★ ★ ★

ALUMINIUM Ltd. of CANADA

"ALUMINIUM LIMITED OF CANADA and its subsidiaries report a net profit for 1952 of $22,372,289 or the equivalent of $2.73 a share **after** deduction of capital cost allowances (depreciation and depletion) income taxes and all other charges."—"Times" (London), 30/3/53.

Dear Fellow workers in Bauxite,
(Mackenzie, B.G. or Manchester, Jamaica)—

These are American dollars, an equivalent of £7,500,000 (approx.). Yes sir, and they cannot afford a wage increase to 4/- an hour in Jamaica. Look at the measly royalties paid too!

Did you know that every ounce of aluminium made in Canada comes from West Indian bauxite? Did you know that West Indian bauxite is over 90% of the total world supply available to the Canadian monsters?

We have the whip-hand on this occasion and if a patriotic government holds the whip, we can win untold millions for all the West Indies to enjoy—when we are Federated and Self-Governing.

★ ★ ★

WEST INDIES SUGAR

(Controlled by Tate & Lyle Investments Ltd.)

THEY made a quarter of a million pounds nett for the year ending 30th September (£245,734). That is an increase of over £50,000 in one year.

Dear Readers, for those of you who are worrying over Mrs. Tate or Mr. Lyle, the £¼ million is AFTER :

£192,521 has been allowed for depreciation
£560,000 has been allowed for taxation.

Now, after paying out the dividend to the idle rich there still remains £144,489 which is "carried forward" towards next year's scoop, unless. . . !

CARIBBEAN NEWS
Issued Monthly
Address:
17 Bishop's Bridge Road, London, W.2.

★ Editorial ★

Federation

THE West Indian people want independence, that is clear. It is also clear that they see independence in connection with a federated West Indies, this being the framework for a nation able to solve its problems, in addition to ethical, cultural and language ties.

They have said precisely what they want. The Caribbean Labour Congress, uniting most political bodies and trade unions, at its Second Congress in 1947 in Jamaica, declared unanimously that Federation must involve two basic essentials:

"I. That each of the territories of the Federation must simultaneous with the creation of a Federal structure be granted constitutions substantially similar in character and providing for internal Self-Government.

"2. That the Federal Constitution must provide for Responsible Government equivalent to Dominion Status."

This demand is unmistakable. It does not put forward a plan for "federation" which leaves the individual territories just where they were before and a "federation" which is unable to exercise control over finance, defence, foreign affairs and external trade.

But that is just what Whitehall is holding out to the West Indies, not even right now, but promised for some time in the future. The London "Times" Special Correspondent expressed the view when the talks opened that it is "unlikely that federation as a working plan will be more than a cloud on the horizon for some years to come."

The perspective of a super-federated Crown Colony is what Whitehall is using to try to satisfy the long-cherished desire of West Indians for independence.

Because we have been demanding federation as a necessary step in an independent West Indies, the British Colonial Government thinks it can fool us by foisting upon us the shell without the substance.

But we are no fools. We can see miles off that this "federation" which is being discussed at Carlton House Terrace in London, based on the Rance Report, is designed to make it cheaper for our "benevolent" masters to rob us of our wealth.

★

THE Federal Government of the Glorified Crown Colony will have to provide the funds to some of the poorer members of the "federation" without being able to control the spending of that money, thus taking the burden off the British Treasury. It should be pointed out, however, that those territories which are at present dependent on grants from the British Exchequer are only in that position because of the conditions in which they are kept by British imperialism. Were they allowed to develop their trade and industry freely the economies of the territories would be far better off than they are now, and would not require imperialist grants.

The aims of the Conference in London, according to the official handouts, are to reach agreement on general principles for federation, and to set up machinery for working out the details afterwards. The talks have been veiled in secrecy, with only meagre releases.

The masses of the West Indian people are not represented at this Conference. Their representatives have been kept out. Such a confab cannot therefore be expected to speak in the true name and interest of the West Indian people. We cannot support the products which may come from such a gathering.

We want federation, but not a "federation" that is used to hamstring the movement for independence of each territory and consequently of the whole. We say that each territory must get its independence and be able to freely join in a really democratic Federation, by will of the people.

That is the only kind of federaiton we can fight for. Whitehall's scheme is a fraud!

Youth is determined to defend rights

by J. VASS JACKSON

THE days have slipped by since we stood in the Concert Hall in Vienna, 449 of us representing 61 countries, countries which we love and appreciate. Today the delegates have returned to their respective countries, but in my ear a sound lingers, a sound sweet and musical.

What is this echo which disturbs my solitude, and drives me on to work for that day when West Indians will participate in the rapturous ecstacy of their National Independence and freedom for ever? Was it the words of a Goebbels rallying his fascist hordes? No, it's the echo from that great International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth, held in Vienna from 22nd March to 27th, 1953, which unanimously passed a resolution embodying the Six Essential Rights of the youth of today.

Understanding

Vividly I can recall the scene. There we were, gathered together in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, united in our desire to establish peace, human dignity and love for our fellow men. Young people of all races, colours and religions, having completely different conceptions of the ramifications of political and economic systems, discussing and agreeing on a common aim, blasting to smithereens the oft-expressed opinion that national barriers constitute a threat to international understanding.

Did we invent these crimes against youth which we examined, were we attempting to exploit the evils of Capitalism? On the contrary, we realised that it was wrong for the young Syrian girl to give birth to her child in the field, cutting the umbilical cord with a stone, paying this terrible price merely for being born into a peasant family, deprived of the advantages of medical science, reduced to the category of a wild animal, because no provisions have been made for her in the field of social services.

Right to work

The right to work, this glorious ideal of all young people who hope for the day when they would be engaged at their craft, moulding things of beauty, creating new designs, making new inventions to lighten man's burden and so improving their contributions to a peaceful society, is today being ushered into the dark oblivion, to be replaced by unemployment and hunger preventing the young from advancing, strangling their hopes, extinguishing the flame of hope from their anxious heart.

Because of this we unanimously agreed that youth be given the right to work, which assured human dignity, and that until such work is assured, the granting of unemployment benefits to youth, enabling them to have a normal standard of living. These conditions not to be peculiar to certain sections, but for the youth in every country, including the West Indies, with its thousands of unemployed, unoccupied and frustrated young people.

Education

Today the need for education facilities for young people is a subject of discussion all over the so-called "Free World," where the youth by virtue of their freedom are denied the necessary educational establishments. The viciousness of this system can be observed in the Colonies or in any place within the Capitalist sphere of influence; a study of conditions in England shows in a positive manner the inequalities of the educational system and the suffering of the aspiring youth who fails to qualify in the rare blood group commonly referred to as the Blue Blooded group.

Indonesia with 6,000,000 elementary school kids on the wrong side of the door. Jamaica with 369,000 kids between the ages of 4 and 15 with accommodation for only 137,000. The Sudan, Cyprus, Africa, Latin America with 70,000,000 illiterate. The United States of America with 8,000,000 students abandoning their education annually. They were all discussed by this great and inspiring conference which demanded that the right to general education, free, equal, democratic, without discrimination, should be the inalienable right of the young people.

In a Jungle

The burdens borne by the Colonial people at the behest of foreign exporters of capital, with its inevitable consequences, has deprived these unfortunate peace-loving people of the right to build their own organisations, the right to have their own press, freely to discuss its needs and to unite for their achievements. They are left lost in a jungle of mis-direction, following the guidance of those who prostitute the pen, directing their writing to the enslavement of mind and body.

Of all this we talked, we understood and were disturbed. From many an eye the tears fell unashamedly, faces reflected their new hopes and desire.

No apologies

In the commissions the problems were sifted in private meetings with the various delegations. We enquired into the conditions existing in other countries, what was the youths' role in building society, what was the nature of their economy. Explanations to any question about which we were in doubt as to their full meaning, were asked in a spirit of friendship, without hostility or prejudice; our replies were true and honest, no attempt to apologise for things in which we were not in complete agreement.

United

No delegate sought to implant on us their economic and political system, none was ridiculed or laughed at, we were friends united in our desire for peace and prosperity.

No finer words could describe the reason for our meeting and our determination to carry out our decisions that the words written by a Korean youth who died fighting the foreign interventionists. On the pages of his note-book, scarlet with his life blood, he wrote:

> "We fight not for ourselves but for the whole world, because we love our freedom dearer than our lives."

Round the Constituencies in B.G. with the People's Progressive Party

From our BRITISH GUIANA Correspondent

THE campaign of the People's Progressive Party is now in full swing, with only a month to go to Polling Day. The Party is contesting 23 of the 24 elected seats, and should do well when the votes are counted if the pre-election tempo is an accurate estimate of what will happen on Election Day.

Janet Jagan, Secretary, and Sydney King, Assistant Secretary of the P.P.P., together with several Party candidates, completed 23 meetings in the Corentyne Berbice District last week.

The response of the people was magnificent. It was noticeable particularly that in the home villages of the candidates the response was overwhelming.

Championed workers' rights

At Adelphi Village, adjoining Plantation Rose Hall in the Canje District, where Ajodha Singh was victimised by the sugar bosses for standing up for the workers rights, the people are wildly in favour of him. Although Ajodha is being opposed by 7 other candidates, the voters feel he will win.

The concentration of votes in his constituency are in the two sugar plantations where the workers realise the worth of and appreciate their man Ajodha who is presently unemployed because of his militant stand against King Sugar.

King and Jagan had to move on to another meeting after Adelphi, but the people held on to them and refused to let them depart. They had so much to say and they wanted to have a thorough look at them and to assure them that Ajodha would win.

When they moved into Mohamed Khan's district, the response was even greater. At Skeldon—another sugar estate—in the packed cinema, with people hanging out of windows and blocking all entrances, the people stood up and cheered as the P.P.P. candidates entered.

Tried to gag him

Comrade Khan told them how the sugar people with the collaboration of the police had tried to have him certified as a mental case several years ago when he challenged the accuracy of the scales weighing canes cut by sugar estate workers. When that failed, the police beat him and threw him in solitary confinement, but he was eventually released without a charge being made.

Mohamed Khan, a rice farmer, is young, dynamic, with a luxuriant beard and a ringing voice. The people love him for the solid work he has done for them and for his activities in building the Party in his far-away district. At that meeting they collected $34 for his campaign expenses.

P.P.P. CANDIDATES

Northwest—Amos Rangela
Pomeroon—Pandit Siridhar Misir
Essequibo—Janet Jagan
Essequibo Islands—Dr. Sirpaul Jagan
Demerara-Essequibo—Fred Bowman
West Bank Demerara—Jai Narine Singh
East Bank Demerara—Dr. Lachhmansingh
Demerara River—George Younge
South Georgetown—Ashton Chase
South Central Georgetown—Clinton Wong
Central Georgetown—Jessie Burnham
North Georgetown—F. O. Van Sertima
Northeast Georgetown—L. F. S. Burnham
West Central Demerara—Ram Karran
Central Demerara—Sydney King
East Central Demerara—Jane Phillips-Gay
Mahaica-Mahaicony—Pandit Soma Persaud
Western Berbice—S. Lachhmansingh
Berbice River—Ajodha Singh
New Amsterdam—Martin Carter
Eastern Berbice—Dr. Hanoman
Corentyne Coast—Cheddi Jagan
Corentyne River—Mohamed Khan

On that very evening, five of the candidates opposing him held a meeting with the object of getting four to withdraw in order to try to defeat Khan. The five self-seekers could not decide who should be left to contest and so they are still in the battle, actually strengthening Khan's chances. Shouts could be heard at 1.30 a.m, down the street—"Vote P.P.P."

Feeling high

In Cheddi Jagan's district, feeling is high. "Man, don't worry your head here—go out in the districts and spend your time where you're needed most," is the cry heard throughout his constituency, as the people assure him that the two opposing candidates will lose their deposits.

At No. 48 Village, the touring P.P.P. candidates found themselves in a dilemma. It was a Hindu religious holiday—the birthday of Ram—and some people wanted them to go ahead with the scheduled meeting, while others said they should wait until the temple services were over. Eventually two meetings were held, even though their schedule for the day already included seven meetings.

When they returned after the religious functions, all the women of the village turned out in one of the most colourful meetings ever seen. They spread out on the grass under a big tree, in their saris and brightly coloured frocks, while the priest in dhoti presided. An eleven-year-old girl opened the meeting with one of the most brilliant speeches. The candidates then addressed the meeting and advised the women how to vote, for this will be the first time they have ever gone to the polls.

"Happy-Happy"

In the evening, still in Cheddi Jagan's constituency, they addressed a Negro community. When Janet Jagan came in, an enthusiast insisted that the meeting stop until she was personally introduced to every woman. While they spoke one man kept bursting forth with "happy-happy!" and eventually could contain himself no longer, but had to interrupt the speaker to tell the audience to listen carefully and vote P.P.P.

In **New Amsterdam** where they entered the stronghold of a well-entrenched candidate, the Party's man Martin Carter met bitter opposition. Despite efforts by well-organised heckling, the Party succeeded in holding a large section of the big audience on their side. The indications are that the fortress there is being penertated very well.

Thousands come

In **Georgetown,** people are turning out by the thousands to P.P.P. meetings. While the newspapers build up and advertise the other candidates and their meetings—and never mentions the P.P.P.s—everyone turns out to the Party's meetings.

The Party's Chairman, L. F. S. Burnham, is tremendously popular in the city and there seems little doubt that he will win his seat.

Ashton Chase, the Party's brilliant trade unionist, is sailing high in his working class district constituency. The people love him and though the capitalists have thrown in their most popular "darling," Peter D'Aguiar, to defeat him, it is not likely that they shall succeed.

People want meetings every night in Georgetown.

"Vote Bougie"

Janet Jagan inaugurated her campaign on the Essequibo Coast on Friday. She was herself surprised at a meeting where about 200 to 300 people were expected and 2,000 actually turned up. The people have nick-named her "bougie," which means "brother's wife," and throughout the district could be heard "Vote Bougie."

Sugar worker Fred Bowman has a tough fight (Demerara-Essiquibo), but indications are that he will lead in this constituency which has three large sugar estates.

Popular Sydney King should win easily. When he returned from his European trip recently, the people of Buxton turned out wild-happy to greet him. He is fighting his home seat.

Party treasurer Ram Karran stands an excellent chance, and so does that little fighting woman, Jane Phillips-Gay, Secretary of the Guiana Industrial Workers Union, as does its President, Dr. Lachmansingh.

World Bank

from page 1

out schools, and there is the natural population increase to be considered. The psuedo-economists on their own estimation will then only reduce unemployment to 12% of the labour force. The Testament demands population control and emigration (?) for the unfortunate remainder, some 70 to 80,000—to be disposed of like rabbits, kittens, machines, or colonial slaves.

(b) The finance capital is to be acquired by increased *indirect taxation.* That means *you.* This means higher prices, taxes on cinema seats, household commodities, shoes, toothpaste, cigarettes, clothes, etc.

Could Lord Lyle spare a penny in *Direct Taxation,* income tax, profits tax, or a capital levy? What about the houses of Flynn in Portland? Any chances of taking a few dollars from the U.S. aluminium monopoly that is scouring St. Ann, Manchester and Clarendon?

(c) "The creation of additional employment for the working-classes will largely depend on . . . *an expectation of reasonably low labour costs.*"

The recent arguments put forward by the representatives of the aluminium magnates, negotiating with the National Workers' Union, is only a mild warning.

"Unreasonable"

Note carefully the support that one of the sons of Jamaica gives to the foreign investors. Mr. Lightbourne, chief of the Industrial Corporation, a local capitalist with business interests in Birmingham, England, provided a wonderful lesson for the "socialist-apologists" under the spell of the Manley dynasty. He is opposed to "unreasonable" wage demands.

This was the unkindest cut of all . . .

(d) The ascent is on agricultural exploitation, and possibly related industries. There Yanks find "serious handicaps" in the way of industrial progress—but they didn't say, for whom? Could U.S.A. business fear competition in this field? For our part, we could resort to protective Tariffs for our local industries and prevent the complaints like those of Sir K. des Santas of Alstons Ltd. (Trinidad).

Colonialism by Bribery

This is the skeleton of a 4-point plan to retard Jamaica; Tie-up production by loans in a debtor nation station, pay lip service to self-Government, and ideologically try to deny the class structure of modern society.

> "The programme will demand of the Government and people a degree of single-mindedness and co-operation which has not hitherto been evident . . ."

Post-war Imperialism is increasingly turning to the use of local puppets; London bankers still boast:

> "The sugar crop in Mauritius was purchased by the United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement . . . (*As if we Colonials could do otherwise!*) The prosperity of the colony is, of course, vulnerable to a fall in world sugar prices." Sir Kenneth Mealing, Chairman, Mercantile Bank of India, London, 31/3/53.

This bond is more secure than the myth of Royalty.

It is a credit to our nationhood that no longer the foreign investor or civil servant is feared or treated with awe.

But beware! Here are many pitfalls. The Report received above, in conjunction with I.C.F.T.U. official agencies, are hard at work.

Latest news of the co-operation of Press,

(Turn to next page)

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL NEWS

ACTIVE preparations are being made in Bucharest by the Rumanian youth to welcome young people from all over the world for the 4th World Youth Festival from 2nd August to the 16th.

A big stadium is being constructed in time for the Festival, although it was originally scheduled to be completed in three years. It will seat 70-80 thousand persons. The sports and the training grounds are being built in the vicinity of an artificial lake covering several acres, and close to an open air theatre with 3,500 seats. Everywhere there are squares, fountains, pools, flowers and trees.

PROGRAMME

The Festival programme includes : demonstrations and other big events, meetings of the delegations, cultural performances and competitions, sports competitions, a film festival, friendship socials, visits, etc. The full programme is being published in " Festival," the weekly paper of the International Preparatory Committee, specially designed for giving news and information on the progress of the Festival preparations. It is free of charge, and contains many interesting pictures.

COST

The cost for the full period of the Festival in Bucharest will be £37 and for the shorter period, that is, for those who can only get away for two weeks including travelling time, the cost will be £33.

For further details of the Festival, fill in the form below and post it right away. The sooner you start saving up and making preparations the better.

If you wish to receive the weekly newspaper " Festival," please indicate.

To WEST INDIAN
Festival Committee
17 Bishop's Bridge Road,
London, W.2.

Please send me more details of the World Youth Festival in BUCHAREST.

Name ....

Address ....

....

World Bank

from page 4

Radio and Education Departments augurs of an unequalled propaganda barrage. This is an indication of the foreign investors' panic. The 19th Century rush for gold, Colorado, U.S.A., pales into insignificance beside this West Indian stampede for bauxite—our claim is staked.

The Report of the World Bank Mission, led by the U.S. Wall Street mogul, Mr. Eugene Black, admits that our real asset is our plentiful supply of labour, AND THE BAUXITE.

MALAN IS RIDING FOR A HEAVY FALL

by ROLLY SIMMS

LOVERS of justice and democracy have been dismayed by the apparent success of Malan's fascist policies in the recent South African elections. There is more to Malan's success than meets the eye.

South Africa has a total population of approximately 12,550,000, of which 8 million are Africans, 1¼ million Asians, 1 million Coloureds, and 2,400,000 are Europeans.

However, under the type of democracy which Malan champions, his " nationalist " won the elections by receiving 598,297 votes. His chief opponents—the United Party and Labour Party polled together 610, 804 votes. They, however, lost the elections. Malan got 94 seats while the United Party had 57.

Rotten System

It is rotten systems such as this that British and American politicians describe as " Western Democracies." It is for this that South African troops are fighting in Korea.

The victory for Malan's fascist policy was not due merely to an undemocratic election system. Far more fundamental was the election programme put forward by the United Party, which took the same standpoint as Malan's fascist programme, that Europeans in South Africa had to be saved from non-Europeans, irrespective of the fact that the United Party claimed it would be less ruthless in applying racial segregation and that it would call a conference of the different races in South Africa.

By accepting the main contention of Malan's Programme it was bound to have the overall effect of strengthening the fascists. Fascism cannot be beaten by double talk.

Democratic Forces

But there are loyal men and women in South Africa among all races who can never be cowed by Malan. Speaking on the elections, Mr. Yusuf Cachalia, Secretary of the South African Indian Congress, said :

" The United Party is now a dead force. The hierarchy of the Broederbond (secret fascist organisation, pledged to uphold white supremacy. Malan and his cronies are members) must in time affect the whites as much as the non-Whites. It is time for a realignment of forces in South Africa, and Whites and non-Whites must join forces."

The ground for such co-operation has already been prepared by the close association of the South African National Congress (Africans), South African Indian Congress (Asians), the Franchise Council (Coloureds) and the South African People's Congress (European). Unity between these organisations can root out the vile cancer of fascism that Malan has been spreading.

Central Africa

Malan's filthy ideas are not confined to South Africa. They have been spreading into Central Africa under the guise of " Central African Federation." Under this type of Federation, complete political power would rest with under 200,000 whites while the 5¼ million Africans of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland would be, in effect, without representation.

Southern Rhodesian Europeans in the recent poll for federation cast 25,570 votes for and 14,729 against, and this was one of the heaviest polls in the history of the country. A mere handful of European settlers.

Few Europeans

In Northern Rhodesia there are only 17,000 Europeans all told, and in Nyasaland only 4,000. It is evident that federation of these territories with the whites in the political leadership, is only one short step from Malan taking over.

Even if the whites were against Malan's fascist policies they would be hard-pressed to keep their independence. Needless to say there is not the slightest sign that they are opposed to Malan. Furthermore, the large imperialist mineowners and industrialists would welcome such a takeover by Malan.

West Indians at home and overseas can help the people of South Africa in their fight against fascism by boycotting South African goods, sending greetings to the organisations of the democratic South Africans, and what is of paramount importance, exposing the British and American imperialists who support Malan.

BANK RECOMMENDS Ruthless Turn-out from Schools

From our Jamaica Correspondent

THE Yankee capitalists, through the World Bank, have decided to stick their noses into educatilon in Jamaica's schools.

This glorious " World Bank " recommended in its report that the periods of school age in primary schools be reduced to four years, and that those children who did not attend 66% school days should be turned out " ruthlessly."

This recommendation was unanimously rejected by educationists attending the all-island Educational Conference.

" That scheme," said Mr. Houghton, the Director of Education, " has some attraction. It is simple, ruthless, and would be effective in getting more children into schools. But it would also increase the number of children reaching adulthood without proper primary education."

Mildly put indeed !

The Conference, however, accepted a scheme described as an experiment in some of the primary schools, by which childrn will attend school half-day only, one group in the morning and another in the afternoon. The teacher, therefore, teaches two groups in one day.

Mr. Houghton pointed out that in Jamaica, for 210,000 pupils there were 4,100 teachers—including headmasters and specialists. This worked out to an average of 50 pupils to a teacher, but if the number of headmasters and specialists were excluded the average would be even greater.

Highest Average

He said this was the highest average in the British West Indies, and himself supplied the obvious comment : " It is the biggest condemnation of our educational system." To this we may add, what a condemnation of colonialism, which keeps an additional 150,000 from attending school in Jamaica.

The director explained that this part-time education was not being done to lower the standard of education, or to save money just for the sake of saving, and reassured, " don't think it degrading to send your child to school half-day. It was done in Lancashire, England. Children worked half-day and attended school the other half."

Must we go back to those conditions to " educate " our children ?

At the Vienna Conference, L to R, Ferdinand Smith, Pearl Branch, John Rojas

West Indian Trade Unionists Speak in London

DESPITE inclement weather on Sunday afternoon, 13th April, about seventy persons attended the Federation meeting of the C.L.C. (London Branch) at the Holborn Hall. This was on the eve of the Colonial Office's West Indian Federation talks at which representatives from 12 West Indian territories will be present. The difference, however, is that the C.L.C. advocates a West Indian Federation as desired by the people for their betterment, instead of creating opportunities for a few so that they may help to keep the many down.

The chair was occupied by comrade R. Chandisingh. Gues speakers were: Miss Pearl Branch, General Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary Group of Oil Field Workers Union of Trinidad, Mr. John Rojas, President of the Trinidad T.U.C., and Mr. Ferdinand Smith, Assistant Secretary of the W.F.T.U., who is a Jamaican. The speakers were returning to the West Indies from Vienna where they attended the W.F.T.U. sponsored Conference on Social Security.

Mr. Rojas spoke on trade union work in the West Indies. He gave a survey of W.F.T.U. from 1945 when it was inaugurated to the present.

An important point he brought to light is the manner in which the I.C.F.T.U. glossed over the two questions the Trinidad T.U.C. asked at the conference in Trinidad to which I.C.F.T.U. invited them. The questions were only about I.C.F.T.U.s intended role in the West Indies and the action they contemplated taking in regard to Kenya and other Colonial sore spots.

The next speaker, Miss Pearl Branch, rose amidst loud cheers. So proud were West Indians and other friends to see so young a woman engaged in so important and far reaching a task—that of being in the forefront of the liberation struggle—that supreme silence reigned in the audience while she spoke.

In a clear, sweet and determined voice, Pearl told of the Women's Auxiliary Oil Workers group and their aims and objectives. Among them are: educational, political, social and economical advancement for women.

In Practice

She remarked how constructive the Social Security Conference in Vienna to which she was a delegate had been, and the very friendly atmosphere that prevailed. In Poland where she spent some time on tour, she was able to see in practice social security for the people's benefit.

When Ferdie Smith rose to speak he opened by asking all the men in the audience to pay their respects to Pearl and West Indian women by standing. This was done with alacrity.

He emphasised that the federation the people wish is that which will prevent the financial aids that they so often boast of giving.

Such aids are unnecessary according to the resources of the West Indies. The whole trouble is that the resources are being plundered. He mentioned that West Indians in England can play a great part in achieving the goal.

Great Response

When asked how the women were brought into activity Pearl said that the necessity of support for the male oil workers was realised and an appeal was made by some women through loudspeakers. This enthused the rest and there was great response, especially when a mother of nine children declared her preference to die fighting rather than to live in bondage.

NEWS has recently been received from Jamaica that Pearl Branch and John Rojas were detained at the airport in that colony where they had to call en route to Trinidad.

It is reported that the police department disowned knowledge of their whereabouts. Friends suspecting the trick, hurried to the airport where they were held. As they greeted them, an Inspector of Police ordered them to board the plane in preparation to leave.

This sort of treatment to West Indians by hangers-on who find a haven in the colonies is strongly resented. Protests against this latest outrage should flood the Governor's office and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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League A.G.M.

THE League of Coloured Peoples, which should be a memorial to the late Dr. Moody, its founder, is seemingly stirring from the slumber it had fallen into.

On the 2nd April, 1952, in their premises at 3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1, the Annual General Meeting was held. It was truly inspiring to see the large attendance.

After the opening remarks of the president, Dr. D. Pitt, an account of the last years work and plans for the future were given by Mr. Sam Morris the Secretary. The discussions arising from the Secretary's report were of a healthy and edifying nature, even though at times very heated.

Owing to the late hour the meeting had to be brought to a close after the election of officers. Thus an important matter like the fininncial report could not be dealt with. It is hoped that the remainder of the agenda which includes this report will be discussed at a subsequent meeting of which members will be dully informed.

Unfortunately the following short-comings must be brought to attention:

1. The late start of one hour after scheduled time.
2. The position of the financial report on the agenda.
3. The failure to mention any of the distasteful happenings in Africa—especially Kenya.

Regarding the 3rd point, it should never be forgotten that the League is a broad organisation of coloured peoples. Therefore at all times any infringement on the rights of coloured peoples of any part of the world should be challenged, and our views recorded accordingly. This duty we owe to our supporters in distant places and to the lasting memory of the valiant Dr. Moody.

Forward the League, and every success in maintaining the ideals that inspired the founder.

Don't miss

C.L,C. (L.B.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, June 7th. 3 p.m.
20 Pont Street, S.W.1.
Tube: Knightsbridge

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(London Branch)

DANCES

* * *

GALA DANCE
Stockwell Road School
Saturday, May 9th.
7—11 p.m. Tube: Stockwell

* * *

GRAND DANCE
ROYAL HOTEL
Saturday, June 6th.
7-30—11-30 p.m. Tube: Russell Square

Caribbean News
obtainable from
CENTRAL BOOKS, Ltd.
2 Parton Street, W.C.1.

Published by A. Brown, 58 Netherwood St., N.W.6.
X-Press Print, 397 Harrow Road, W.9.

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AND FEDERATION

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June 1953

CARIBBEAN
NEWS 6d.

VICTORY FOR P.P.P. IN BRITISH GUIANA ELECTION

"We Stand Firm"

From Janet Jagan

WE in this Party have just displayed to the world that the People of British Guiana were willing to be lead by the most militant and well organised body in the West Indies to-day. All efforts to lead the people away from our distinctly left movement were in vain. The people of British Guiana have spoken in decisive terms and we promise you that we shall not take the opportunist path taken by those betrayers of Barbados and Jamaica who have allowed opportunism to sway them from their correct role.

Sweeping to victory in 18 out of the 23 constituencies contested (24 in all) the Peoples Progressive Party has won the right to choose the six elected Ministers to the Court of Policy, and to nominate two members to sit on the revisionary State Council.

Successfully carrying the flag for the P.P.P., were Ministers, Cheddi Jagan, leader of the arty who polled 82 per cent. of the votes cast in his constituency.
L. Burnham, Chairman of the P.P.P., President, B.G.L.U.
Sydney King, Assistant Secretary, P.P.P.; Deputy Chairman, Buxton Village Council; member B.G. Peace Committee, delegate to the World Congress for Peace, polled 71 per cent.
Jai Narine Singh, Barrister; graduate, College Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, polled 86 per cent.
Dr. J. P. Lachmansingh, President, Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, polled 72 per cent.
Ashton Chase, Secretary, B.G. Labour Union, polled 60.5 per cent.

Deputy Speaker,

Janet Jagan—General Secretary P.P.P. and delegate to the Internation Congress of Women.
(Editors note—Also edits "Thunder", organ of the P.P.P., and a graduate of University of Detroit.)

Appointed to State Council :

Ulric Fingal and George Robertson, faithful Party members for many years.

continued on page 4

"His name has become a symbol of salvation to the people." Cheddi Jagan, leader of the P.P.P. of British Guiana seen at the W.F.T.U. Council in Berlin with V.V.Kuznetsov, now Soviet Ambassador to China.

Land Tenants Fight Rent Jumps in South Trinidad

TENANTS associations are being formed in South Trinidad in order to fight the landlords who are imposing heavily increased rents on the tenants. These tenants are in the main small peasants and agricultural labourers. George Bowrin, Chairman, and James Cummings, Secretary of the Southern Working Committee of the W.I.I.P., have actually organised the tenants all over the South for the struggle against the landlords.

During the last two weeks, meetings have been held in the villages of Rambert, Bamboo, Esperance and La Romain. The tenants are preparing for their own demonstrations in the South and for the first time will take part in the May Day demonstration in Port of Spain.

Free Hand

Under the present Rent Restriction Ordinance the landlords have a free hand to increase rents. In Esperance village the landlord Seenath is demanding an increase from 5.00 per lot per year to $30.00 per year, while at Rambert Village the landlord Augustus is demanding an increase from $6.00 to $12.00 per year and from $12.00 to $24.00 per year.

STALLING JAMAICA?

THE recent constitutional changes agreed on for Jamaica by the Tory Colonial Secretary, Oliver Lyttleton, and the Governor of Jamaica, Sir Hugh Foot, are one more manoeuvre on the part of those who exploit the West Indies to fool the people into believing they are free.

The proposed changes are: (1) Increasing the elected members on the Executive Council by three making a total of 8. (2) Establishment of separate ministries with an elected Minister in control. (3) Power to the Majority Party Leader to hire and fire ministers, and (4) Clipping of the Governor's reserve powers.

On Paper

These changes appear to be quite progressive on paper. When one notes that the Governor still has the power of veto, still has power to declare a state of emergency without referring to the House of Representatives and that foreign troops are still in our country these changes appear as the shameful fraud they really are.

WORKERS DEMONSTRATED FOR FREEDOM ON MAY-DAY

THE biggest ever May Day demonstration in the history of Trinidad and Tobago took place on Friday, May 1st, 1953.

Over 6,000 workers demonstrated for two hours through the main streets of Port of Spain, under the banner of the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council and the West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad and Tobago.

For probably the first time the peasants and the land tenants marched in a single detachment led by Comrade George Bowrin and James Cunnings of the Southern Working Committee of the W.I.I.P. The inter-racial composition of the demonstration struck a resounding blow against the racialists. The women, over 2,000 in number, were well representated in the demonstration mainly through the Women's Auxiliary Group of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union.

Militant Slogans

Greetings from the Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), People's Progressive Party (B.G.), People's Political Party (St. Vincent) and the World Federation of Trade Unions were read to the May Day meeting.

At the head of the demonstration were the leading members of the T.U.C. and the W.I.I.P. Main slogans and resolutions dealt with the bans on literature and travel, the demand for a new Constitution, for Federation with Independence and against a Crown Colony Federation, Social Security, Unemployment Relief and Peace. Two of the slogans read " We Want More Pay—Not More Bans ", " British Guiana To-day—Trinidad and Tobago To-morrow ".

The main addresses were delivered by John Rojas, President of the T.U.C., and Lennox Pierre, Chairman of the W.I.I.P.

Closing the celebrations, Comrade John La Rose, General Secretary of the West Indian Independence Party, called upon the people to resolve " to expel the British Imperialists from our country ".

In Tobago, special May Day celebrations were held. There the main address was delivered by Comrade Simeon Alexander, first Vice-President of the Federated Workers Trade Union. *(C.P.N.S.)*

B.G. Also

In Georgetown, British Guiana, over 20,000 people took part in May Day celebrations. The mammoth crowd expressed joy over the election victory of the P.P.P.

Dedicated to P.P.P.

BRAVE leaders of the peoples
Do not retreat nor fear
But cast each obstacle aside
And make the pathway clear.

The voices of the peoples
Speak with thee one and all,
Surely this a poor man's party
And hears the poor man's call.

Our freedom and independence
Worth all our diamond and gold,
And we shall fight for this
With our very life and soul.

The enemy of the peoples
Will not reign for long,
We'll crush them all.
They are few, we are many,
Our mighty arm is strong.

by Carlton Bailey

CONSPIRACY AGAINST ST. VINCENT LEADER

REPEATED attacks have been made on the Hon. E. T. Joshua, because of his militant stand for the working people of St. Vincent. Below is a copy of a signed and sworn statement, bringing to light the latest move against him.

I Vincent Albert Sardine of Kingstown St. Vincent do hereby make the following statement voluntary and of my own free will. I arrived at St. Vincent on the S.S. Nina about six weeks ago and happened to have met Lt.-Col Jinkins, Superintendent of the Police Force who had a chat with me concerning Hon. E. T. Joshua stating that the said Mr. Joshua is definitely a Communist. He told me that I must remember that I am a white man and that he needed my help. He said, I will pay the charge to join his Union. The set up is that we want Joshua either shot or to get him on a good charge say Arson. You could try to influence him, by getting chummy with him and I will pay you a reward, if you could get him to burn say the Barracks or the Treasury; and inform me of the time when the offence will be committed I will be present to protect you, and you will become Queen's witness. I told him O.K.

When I was about to leave, he gave me a dollar and made me sign a receipt which he placed in the safe at his office. I then left and went away. After a week he sent and called me and told me to meet him at his home at lunch time. I did so. He gave me two white shirts and a short pants. He told me " Now Sardine get set, take these clothes as a disguise and work fast, see what you can do to-day ". I then came and told Mr. Joshua, and gave him the pants as an exhibit. I further state that he will be able to recognise me in these clothes at night. I again state that from the manner in which he spoke he meant that I was even to commit the offence or even to assist him in the act of shooting down Mr. Joshua, if I had succeeded in getting Mr. Joshua to say, attempt an offence of arson on a place like Her Majesty's Treasury.

Sgd. VINCENT A. SARDINE.

£ $ £ £ $ £

TREASURE
£ CHEST £

United Brit. Oilfields of Trinidad

PROFITS this year reaches £527,202 (over 2 million West Indian dollars).

Of course they have been able to afford a tax of £900,000 (3½ million W.I. dollars) all to Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer—you see these companies are registered in London.

Imperial Britain is ' winning ' on both fronts.

U.B.O.T. gives to its shareholders a 12½ per cent. dividend the same as a year ago.

They tuck away £325,000 as a general reserve—also carrying forward £179,635 to next year's accounts.

What wealth awaits us when we are really a Federation and Nationally Independent.

Discounts for bulk supply of *Caribbean News*

10 to 24 of one issue	10%
25 to 49 „ „	15%
50 to 99 „ „	25%
100 or more „	33⅓%

including delivery charges

WATER RIOTS COMMEMORATED

P.O.S. TRINIDAD

THE Fiftieth Anniversary of the " Water Riots " commemorated by the W.I.I.P. with a mass meeting in Woodford Square, P.O.S., on Monday, 23rd March, 1953.

On Monday, 23rd March, 1903, the people protesting against the oppressive Water Works Ordinance and defending their right to attend meetings of the Legislative Council, surrounded the Red House in their thousands. Sixteen working people were killed and fifty-one were wounded. Though the professional and merchant class were prominent in their agitation against the ordinance, not one of them was killed.

Forced to Flee

The Governor and other Colonial officials were forced to flee for their lives to the warships H.M.S. Pallas and H.M.S. Rocket, then docked in P.O.S. harbour and which had been brought to quell the people's resistance. The Red House, the seat of the local Government, was burned down. The people were taxed for two years excess in order to rebuild it.

Lennox Pierre, Chairman of the W.I.I.P., delivered the main address. Eye witness accounts of the riots were also given by Comrade Julian Brathwaite and Downes.

[C.P.N.S.]

No Reply to Protests

TRINIDAD

ON the 11th March, 1953, the Powers and Privileges Bill became law. Neither the Governor nor the Secretary of State replied to the objections of the witnesses who appeared before the Select Committee on the bill.

The Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council, the Civil Rights Action Committee, the West Indian Independence Party had all formally protested to the Governor and requested that assent be withheld until he could hear their protests. No reply was received but the bill was passed.

It will no longer be possible to attend meetings of the Legislative Council as of right. This right has now been legally taken away from the people.

JAMAICA — Pleasure Land for the Rich

UNEMPLOYMENT is said to be on the increase in the West Indies. Out of a total population of approximately three million people, it is estimated that at least 40 per cent. of the working force is out of work.

Acting on orders from their Imperialist boss, however, the semi-colonial regime in Jamaica is reported to be pursuing a policy evidenced by the fact that over the past five years more foreign capital has entered the Island than ever before in its history.

by Eric Deslandes

Profits go Abroad

Jamaicans who are concerned with the development of their country will not greet this announcement with any amount of pride or satisfaction. For what is the use of foreign capital investments when cheap labour is exploited and the profits go abroad? And there is the possibility, too, of a return of feudalism.

To illustrate this point, here are some of the investors whose presence in the Island speaks of its natural wealth and promise:

Major Albert Nathan, English investor who owns department stores in London and Jamaica, has bought 40 acres of Miranda Hill adjoining Mr. Phillip Shepherd's property, Hackton, in Montego Bay, where is its planned to establish a gigantic Hotel Scheme. In addition, he owns large properties in Mandeville, situated in mid-west Jamaica.

Wall Street Broker

A friend of the Major, Commander Cleaver, has now purchased Copper Hill. Wall Street broker, Floyd Keeler, is now the owner of Ironshore Sugar estate and factory with two other properties, Providence and Hadfield, tacked on to make a total of some 2,000 acres. He also has a residence at Reading, where he lives when in Jamaica.

Reading is on the hills a couple of miles out of Montego Bay proper and, like all the suburbs of the town, has its quota of such people . . . Mrs. Millicent Rogers, wealthy American industrialist who own large interests in Standard Oil concerns, has bought a residence there. Her neighbours are the Britishers, Colonel and Mrs. Rogers—no relations.

An American who made it his business to popularise Montego Bay in particular and Jamaica in general is Geo. Duncombe, retired banker. After having built for him a modernistic bungalow near the sea, he returned to the U.S.A and advertised the Island to friends. Soon to join him were Miss Leodore Gibson, a millionairess who bought a site on Red Hills adjoining Hackton. She also acquired New Mills, twelve miles off the southern seacoast to Lucea.

From Scotland comes Sir John Buchanan Jardine, who owns a house at Brandon Hill on the east side of the town. Back at Reading is Mr. Hamish Mitchell and Major J. T. Pease, both Britishers, who own Round Hill.

Captain and Mrs. James Dwight Akers, who have Lilliput, a 500-acre property near Montego Bay, have already 2,000 grape plants in and plans to multiply to around 10,000 in all. Annual bearing is estimated to be half a million pounds. They are also going in for Virginia tobacco, sugar cane, cattle, Sea Island cotton and horses for the local turf. They aim at building as many beach houses as possible to adorn the 2-mile stretch of coastland.

Errol Flynn

There is Errol Flynn's Navy Island, approximately 50 acres, situated off the coast at Port Antonio. He also owns the Titchfield Hotel there. Noel Coward, famous English playwright, owns a large property on the old Wentworth Plantation, three miles from Port Maria. The late Ivor Novello also acquired Wyndways, a hill top home on the first rising out of Montego Bay.

Col. Sir Harold Mitchell, former Conservative M.P., owns 'Prospect', at one time a thriving sugar estate in the parish of St. Ann's. It was here that Prime Minister Winston Churchill spent most of his holidays while in the Island. This property adjoins the the Tower Isle Hotel owned by Issa Bros., one of Jamaica's most flourishing capitalists . . . . Mr. R. A. Peate and a syndicate of Americans have together taken over a large holding at Dry Harbour, the place Columbus first set foot in the Island.

Space does not permit more than a passing mention of the many wealthy foreigners now doing business in Jamaica. Here are a few others: Jack Nathan of London now owns Mar Vista Hotel; Mr. Phillip Shepherd, Insurance magnate, has Orchard—a 1,000-acre property; the American Bauxite Coy. are mining bauxite and has disclosed that the Island possess 60% of the world's total deposits; A Cuban company has opened a Textile Factory Spanish Town, and a British firm is sponsoring a newly-erected Cement Factory, etc.

From this minimised list, you will see what I mean by a 'return to feudalism'.

Task Ahead

The task therefore lies with West Indians themselves, who must never flinch in their demands for National Independence and Federation, for without these two prerequisites the Legislators will never have a free hand to deal adequately with this and other pressing problems.

Editorial

A Mess of Pottage

AFTER deliberating for two weeks, the representatives from the West Indies meeting in London under Lyttleton's and Munster's guidance, accepted in the main the terms of the now notorious Rance Report on Caribbean federation.

The communique following the conclusion of the talks indicated that only small changes had been made to the S.C.A.C. recommendations, such as putting the capital in Grenada instead of Trinidad, 15 instead of 25 per cent. of customs revenues for the federal government, and so on.

Not only were many of the people at the talks unrepresentative of the people in whose name they spoke, but also the manner in which the talks were conducted demonstrated the falseness of the whole affair.

One would have thought that an issue like federation which concerned the welfare of so many people would have been carried out in full view rather than in "behind-the-scenes" sessions.

Such a method only reflects the backdoor sell-out of the struggle for West Indian independence by politicians who have no faith in the working class and are prepared to play the imperialists' game of shackling the Caribbean even tighter to the folds of Whitehall.

* * *

This proposed federation is a tight jail-house imposed from above. Why weren't the people consulted?

The only democratic solution is provided in the aims of the victorious People's Progressive Party of British Guiana, which is prepared to accept federation based on self-government for each unit, to be decided by referendum, and the federal constitution to be drawn up by a constituent assembly.

This is also the stand of the Caribbean Labour Congress.

The "sell-out" federation would only serve the purpose of setting back and retarding the struggle for independence.

West Indians will be clear on the issue, and will demand independence for each respective territory as the first immediate objective. They will then be able to freely join in a democratic federation of free people.

CLC STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS

THE magnificent victory of the Peoples Progressive Party of British Guiana has been cheered and celebrated in every West Indian territory. It will be fittingly commemorated in calypso and verse, and it will gladden the hearts of democrats in every country.

In the flush of a resounding victory it is fitting that we should examine the new features of the situation. This smashing victory of the people has also been 'greeted' by the Imperialists. They have greeted it with such choking fury and hatred that they have been almost reduced to silence.

The usual smooth urbane tones of the *Times* were cast aside on May 1st when it described the victory of the P.P.P.

The epithet "ignorant masses" accurately reflects the feeling of the British classes for the people of British Guiana and the West Indies. Now the "blah-blah" about the coronation has flood proportion, it is well to remember those words.

We must not believe that the rage of the imperialists will merely evaporate and they will work peacefully with the new rising forces. There are no methods too foul or underhand which they will not use in an attempt to pervert the P.P.P.

The *Manchester Guardian,* using a less primitive approach, seeks to apply the techniques of the Labour imperialists and hopes that Jagan can be ensnared like Dr. Nkrumah (Editorial, 1.5.53). These unprincipled scribes who hope that the people of British Guiana may be betrayed will learn the bitter lesson (for them) that Jagan and the P.P.P. will never turn from the programme voted for by the people.

NEW ERA

The era when West Indian politicians, such as Gomes, Adams, Manley, danced to the whims of Whitehall, is swiftly drawing to a close, and arising out of the morass of corrupt politics are new forces represented in Jamaica by Richard Hart, Ferdinand Smith and others, in Trinidad by John Rojas, John La Rose and others, and in St. Vincent by Theodore Joshua, and carried forward by Jagan in British Guiana. These patriots represent and are the incorruptable forces, unswervingly loyal in the service of the West Indian peoples.

The blow delivered in British Guiana is only one of a series of tenpenny nails that will be driven into the coffin of British Imperialism in the West Indies. P.P.P. has triumphed over an unprecedented hate campaign. The Lockhoos and others who were scared off by Imperialism and thought to further their political careers on the anti-communist bandwaggon, have been banished into 'limbo' by the people. There is a collar and a place in limbo for every lap-dog of Imperialism.

Judging by recent efforts of Imperialism to pierce the C.L.C. (London Branch) it is certain that every effort will be made to disrupt the P.P.P., but treachery can never and will never stop the forward march of the people of British Guiana.

The C.L.C. (London Branch) offers its 100% support for the P.P.P. and sends warmest fraternal greetings to our brother organisation.

Citizens of Guiana! Rally even closer under the leadership of Cheddi Jagan and the Executive Committee of the P.P.P.

BRITISH GUIANA VICTORY

(continued from page 1)

Other Assemblymen are :

Ramkarran—Treasurer P.P.P. and a foundation member of the Party, polled 65%.

Fred Bowman—ex-shovelman sugar worker, polled 42.8%, defeated Dr. J. B. Singh, a renegade from the Party who was the leading 'witch-hunter' and who has been invited to 'represent' B.G. at the Coronation.

Mohammed Khan, rice farmer, five opponents lost deposits —he polled 53%.

Jessie Burnham, who defeated 'Honest' John Fernandes and gained 53% of the votes.

F. O. Van Sertima—trade unionist, who gained 49.5% of votes and defeated Dr. Nicholson.

Chandra S. Persaud—Hindu priest, who got 29% and defeated Dan Debidin.

Samuel Lachmansingh—rice farmer and active member of Rice Producers Association, who polled 37%.

Ajodha Singh—militant trade unionist, who was victimised for the part he played in the Berbice sugar estate strikes two years ago.

Jane Phillips-Gay—Secretary Guiana Industrial Workers Union, who caused her six opponents to lose their deposits.

Dr. Hanomansingh—College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and specialist children's diseases. He polled 81%.

Congress Resolutions

The Party Congress in March passed several important resolutions, included are:

1. That all Party Ministers accept only $500 per month instead of the proposed salary of $600.
2. That of the $500 paid to Ministers, each Minister must pay the sum of $100 monthly to party funds.
3. That members of the nominated State Council should not be paid.
4. That each Party Assemblyman give the party part of his legislative salary on the following basis:
    (a) For those whose personal incomes exceed $100 per month—one-third of the legislative salary, i.e. $160.
    (b) Those whose personal incomes are between $50 and $100—give 20% of their legislative salary.
    (c) Those whose incomes are $50 and below—give 10% of their legislative salary.
5. That all Party Assemblymen pledge to support legislation for the implementation of the Recall. (Editor's note—The Recall is the right of voters to force the withdrawal of an unsatisfactory Assemblyman from the House on the presentation of a petition signed by the majority of his constituents.)
6. That the next Annual Congress of the Party be a delegates Congress held in Berbice.

Opposition Failed

The National Democratic Party gained two seats and the other two parties contesting failed completely. Lionel (ban all books, all reds) Luckhoo and the sugar estate owners' favourite union, the Manpowers Citizens Association, actively supported the hastily concocted National Democratic Party. These forces conducted one of the most *expensive* smear campaigns ever seen, with red-baiting the chief line. Press and pulpit went out to defeat us on issues such as 'Godless communism' etc. They called the day before polling a "Day of Prayer" to enable voters to ask God for guidance. Since the elections I have not heard the pulpit's comment on God's direction.

May Day Parade was terrific—20,000—biggest ever held in B.G.

* * *

An Election Analysis

by THE EDITOR

THE People's Progressive Party has land-slided British Guiana to political prominence in the West Indies through its sweeping victory, voting being done for the first time under universal adult suffrage.

Despite all the attacks and the campaign of silence from the Big Business press as the election approached, the P.P.P. has shown once and for all that the masses of working people of British Guiana support it and its programme of fighting imperialism, for better conditions for the people, and socialism.

Made History

A correspondent writes:

"We really made history here. I attended the celebration at Port Mourant for Jagan to mark his victory and there were about five thousand people there. P.P.P. won all 3 seats on this coast. Cheddi and his winning candidates in this County went up to Skeldon and drove back slowly, stopping at every village where there were thousands waiting for them. Poor Cheddi was unable to fetch all the garlands.

"In the procession there were about 50 cars, buses, and motor cycles. People kissed him and lifted him and sang. It was the most magnificent thing I have ever witnessed.

"Women wept for joy and children shouted and sang.

"The name of Cheddi Jagan was the only thing you heard. His name has become a symbol of salvation to the people of B.G. 'Even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear the cheer'".

And in Georgetown, the capital, a big meeting was held at which Sydney King, Assistant Secretary of the Party, spoke magnificently on Peace and National Independence.

From 1946 onwards, Cheddi Jagan was the only member of the Legislative Council who consistently fought for the interests of the people.

Janet Jagan's popularity also grew tremendously with the workers. She was tested in the hard arena of street-corner meetings and working class struggle. The workers had ample opportunity of seeing which side she was on.

First Paper

The Party was officially inaugurated in January, 1950, but the foundations had been laid by the People's Political Association from 1946, which included stalwarts Cheddi and Janet Jagan, Sydney King, Ramkarran and Ashton Chase. They published the first progressive news-sheet in British Guiana—the PAC Bulletin.

For the first time a group of people exposed the Government and big business Bookers' robbery of the people. They drew from the experience of the workers the lessons that their troubles sprung from imperialism. They were not afraid to attack imperialism, unlike some demagogues who at times strongly attacked it in a vague sort of way without actually exposing the system to the people.

For Liberation

The P.P.P. with a membership of about 5,000 is a people's democratic party seeking the unity of all sections of Guianese to struggle for Independence and Socialism.

"Our position is clear," said Janet Jagan, General Secretary, at the Second Congress in 1952. "We must take a militant stand against all acts of aggression and a firm stand for peace. Our sympathies and alliances must be with the international working class movement. First of all, as party members, we must realise our position as a part of the world struggle for socialism and peace. Secondly, we must be conscious of our contribution to the struggle of colonial peoples for liberation and self-determination."

The Party states its aims thus:

"Recognising that the final abolition of exploitation and oppression, of economic crises and unemployment and war will be achieved only by the socialist reorganisation of society, pledges itself to the task of winning a free independent Guiana; of working out a democratic federation with the Caribbean Colonies, whose Federal constitution should be written by a constituent assembly; of building a just socialist society in which the industries and natural resources (minerals, etc.) of the colony will be owned by the people and managed for the common good, a society in which security, peace, plenty and freedom will be the heritage of ALL."

Seeks Unity

In achieving this, "the P.P.P. will strive for unity of workers and farmers, co-operatives, friendly societies, progressive businessmen and professionals, civil servants and housewives of all races. It will uncompromisingly fight against imperialism and colonial oppression and will support with all its power the international working class and the national liberation movements of all countries dominated and run for the benefit of alien interests."

Foreign owned

British Guiana's basic industries, bauxite and sugar are owned by a few foreign companies. In Sugar, production 195,651 tons in 1950, mainly owned by Booker Bros., McConnell & Co. Ltd., 21 big plantations accounted for 193,561 tons, while 800 small producers accounted for 2,090 tons or about 1% of total. Their plots average one acre or slightly over, while the average plantation is 7,000 acres.

Bauxite (1,583,417 tons produced 1950) is under the control of two companies, one a subsidiary of Canadian Aluminium Co. Ltd., which in turn is a branch of an American company, and the other a subsidiary of American Cyanamide Corporation, Inc.

Foreign capitalists rob the country of its wealth and retard the development of industry for the people's benefit.

Democratic Control

The Party's programme stands for the "effective democratic control of all major industries. Increase in royalties for gold, bauxite, diamond, timber. Establishment of minor and secondary industries, and conversion of primary products into semi-finished or finished goods by taxation in favour of latter if and where necessary."

Average holding of farmers in 1946 was 2.48 acres. Ninety-two per cent of holdings are 10 acres or under, 76% are 5 acres or under, and 23% of holdings are under 1 acre.

The Party stands for "Land reform and properly planned land settlement schemes", guarantee land to the tillers, and assistance to farmers.

Housing

HOUSING—"Working class housing conditions in the Colony leave much to be desired, and the growth of population in recent years is making the position steadily worse, as comparatively little new building has been taking place" (Colonial Office Economic Survey of Colonial Territories 1951).

The Party's programme on Housing—"quicken slum clearance; abolish tied cottages; subsidization of houses for working class families."

Education

EDUCATION—Twenty-one per cent of the population over 10 years old cannot read or write.

Party's programme—"Free and adequate provision of primary, secondary and technical education for all; abolish dual control; oppose 'shift system'".

Social Security

SOCIAL SECURITY—There are no health or unemployment insurance schemes. Old age pensions are granted to those over 65 years of age who have been living in the Colony at least 10 years, and whose income does not exceed 18s. 9d. per month. The rate paid is 18s. 9d. a *month* in Georgetown and 12s. 6d. in the country.

The P.P.P. stands for social security in old age and sickness, and unemployment insurance.

continued on page 5

B.G. Analysis

from page 4

Health

According to 1946 census, there were just 67 doctors and 33 dentists, which worked out to about one doctor to 5,400 people and one dentist to 10,800 people.

The party programme reads : " Extend and raise the standards of public hospitals ; country hospitals, sanatoria and health clinics; more emphasis on preventive medicine."

Stumbling Block

In attempting to implement such a programme, however, the Party will run up against a colonial constitution and system in which real power lies out of their hands.

With such a programme, is it any wonder that the P.P.P. has swept into victory?

When it is realised that an average of six candidates stood in each constituency, the real magnitude and completeness of the Party's victory is fully appreciated. Over 80 candidates lost their deposits, while only two former members of the Legislative Council got back their seats again—T. Lee, one-time P.P.P. member, and W. O. R. Kendall, who beat Martin Carter in New Amsterdam. 'Honest' John Fernandes was among the unsuccessful ones.

Where Power Lies

Let no one make the mistake, however, in thinking that British Guiana has won independence. Nothing of the sort.

Although the Party has an absolute majority in the House of Assembly and Court of Policy, the ministries concerned with Finance, Law and Order, Foreign and Commonwealth relations. Defence including the Police are in the hands of the three official members.

Overriding all is the Governor, whose reserved powers remain undiminished. He can dissolve the elected chamber anytime by declaring an emergency.

Worked Hard

To-day, the Peoples Progressive Party is the only party in B.G. worthy of the name. It has worked hard to build the overwhelming confidence the people have shown [illegible] and will continue to forge ahead, further developing [illegible] own party organisation while at the same time forging even stronger links with the people who now look to it with the leadership of Cheddi Jagan to guide them in the struggle for better conditions of life and for Independence with a Socialist future.

Shun Temptations

The people have given the party a big victory. But they cannot now rest content with this victory and leave everything in the hands of their elected representatives. They will have to keep a vigilant check on their legislators to make sure they stick to the Party's policy in the House and shun the temptations which have in the past and will even more now be held out to them by the ruling class in an effort to wreck the Party's victory.

Party Chairman Burnham himself declared: " I have been interviewed at all hours of the day, night and morning even. I have been offered everything from money to political support by the big sahibs and their creatures . . . Those who will like to woo me away from it had better save their efforts for other more gullible, conceited and politically unstable prey." (*Thunder,* February, 1953).

"Unstable Prey"

Already it seems that such " gullible, conceited and politically unstable prey " has been found. For no sooner being elected on the P.P.P. ticket, .when Clinton Wong resigned and referred to the Party as being dominated by an " irresponsible group ", according to press reports.

Disruption

The *Daily Express* also reported on 18th May that both London and Washington had sent down to British Guiana security men to check and report on the P.P.P. It should not be expected that activities will be confined to reporting, but that attempts will be made to utilise the reported ideological differences beween right and left in the Party to disrupt the movement.

Just recently, news has reached us that underhand means have been tried, involving a seaman from Grenada, to implicate Hon. Joshua of the P.P.P., St. Vincent, in a serious offence. This seaman was allegedly bribed by the Police Superintendent.

The enemies of the people will spare no effort to sharpen the differences within the Party, supporting the Right against the Left.

Appeal to People

In the face of such machinations the Party will find it necessary to dig deeper its roots among the people by constantly appealing to them and explaining its every move to its supporters through mass meetings and the like.

To frustrate the evil designs of their enemies, the members of the Party and people will be exercising the greatest vigilance in order to consolidate the victory that has been won at the poll.

Vigilance

Victory must not give way to complacency. VIGILANCE is the watchword of the people.

The struggle has just begun and all progressive West Indians are looking with hope to the P.P.P. in BRITISH GUIANA, wishing it every success and pledging even more to develop the movement in their respective territories to march in the front ranks to Victory.

Meet your friends at
the C L C Dance
Royal Hotel, June 6th.

Make a date for –
BUCHAREST in AUGUST

by J. Vass Jackson

LYING in the slight hollow of the great Rumanian plain with its beautiful low hills running west to south-west, cut by the soft ripples of the River Dambovitsa, whose waters flow to the Danube, is the most satisfying city in Europe. Called Bucharest, its name implies pleasure (from Bucurie meaning joy and pleasure). This name is romantically linked with the victory of Mircea of Wallachia (1389-1419) over the plundering Turks.

The City's history reads like a page from the diary of a fairy princess. Burnt by the Turks in 1595, it has been the scene of many wars and invasions ; in the 18th century bearded Boyas in gay turbans and tall fur hats decorated with red plumes and magnificent brocades lived lavishly besides rich Greeks from Constantinople, whose favourite pastime was the buying of Governments.

Changed today

Rumanian nobility were considered too grand to walk to their rooms ; a young prince would be carried by servants, their arms under his shoulders, his precious feet the earth not to dispoil. To-day, however, the evils of feudalism have been removed and the city breathes freely of the fresh mountain air, being what it set out to be, a city of joy and pleasure.

In August, traces of spring will still linger in Bucharest, this city whose avenues are now fringed with red and white roses, welcomes the scarlet canna so gay in its brilliant contrast with its blue-green leaves. This city of trees will not only be welcoming the Canna and the sweet rays of the warm Rumanian sun, but will also be host to the fourth World Youth Festival and Students for Peace and Friendship.

Young people of all lands will walk in the beautiful parks softly lit with white globes ; parks and squares everywhere—oh, what beauty ; the magnificent entry with its pools and fountains, its statues in the middle of flower beds, the fir trees, the big pink vases, the smooth silky turf ; all these are the frame surrounding the various stadia. The young people of Bucharest are now completing these amenities for your and your friends—there is a seat for everyone.

West Indian Youth need have no fear about attending the Festival ; no persons will be compelled to take part in any activities which they consider contrary to their beliefs. Young Christians from the Scandinavian countries have arranged to meet young Christians from all over the world to discuss the problems of the Christian Churches. Young nurses, engineers, bricklayers, builders, they are all planning to meet in Bucharest.

Opportunity

All West Indians in Britain should endeavour to be in Bucharest this August ; your pen pals overseas to whom you have been writing—here is your opportunity to make a meeting possible—write to them, whatever country they might be in, and invite them to meet you in Bucharest this summer, making possible that meeting which you have long planned.

Why is it so important that West Indian Youth should be represented at this the greatest grathering of young people ever staged.

Make friends

Listen to Mr. Carlton Bayley, a young worker from British Guiana. " In British Guiana we are isolated from contact with our brothers in other West Indian territories, we take a dim view of foreign representatives in our country. This can only be obviated by us young people meeting and knowing our friends in other lands. The Festival is the medium by which we can accomplish this great desire."

And yet another West Indian, Mr. John Young, Vice-Chairman of Liverpool West Indian Society: " I am not interested in politics. I consider the Festival a good thing because we are striving for peace, and this to me seems the best way to make friends from all lands and guarantee a happy life."

So let's get going, West Indians. Fill in and send off the form on this page. Get registered, the Festival is only a short time away ; August 2nd—16th.

Billy Strachan

COMRADE BILLY STRACHAN is improving in condition, after his operation.

Many comrades and friends visiting him, are pleased that he can now walk, even though with sticks.

Even in hospital he has not been idle and has been helping with the forward march of the C.L.C.

We hope that he will soon be with his beloved family again.

★ ★ ★

To WEST INDIAN
Festival Committee
17 Bishop's Bridge Road,
London, W.2.

Please send me more details of the World Youth Festival in BUCHAREST.

Name..

Address ....

....

Greetings ★

or A stalwart meets his match

CONGRATULATIONS to Rolly Simms on his marriage to Anne Leeser, 30/5/53.

Rolly has been an active member of the C.L.C. since 1950. He has held many Executive posts and is now Vice President.

His many activities include the memorable demonstration outside South Africa House in 1950 when Dr. Donges was a welcome visitor of the then Labour Government. Also the daring revelation in 1951 to a west end cinema audience of the facts about the case of Willie Magee, one of the many Negro legal murder victims of U.S.A. justice. (See him in picture on right demonstrating on May Day.)

He has not been found wanting on the other side of the movement's activities either. On C.L.C. Deputations to the Minister of State for the Colonies, about such as the bans imposed on progressive West Indians entering other W.I. islands, he has done valuable work. He has also served on the Seretse Khama fighting committee for Seretse's restoration to his Bamangwato people.

Anne has identified herself with the C.L.C. for a long while now, and has rendered valuable services. She should be a good partner for our young warrior.

The C.L.C. wish the couple all the happiness they deserve. And may they always be strong to carry on the struggle.

Caura Racket Finally Exposed

AFTER two years of deliberate delay, the Government issued, on 13th March, 1953, the long awaited Caura Dam report. The report from beginning to end was a tale of fraud, misappropriation and robbery of taxpayers' money by imported colonial "experts" and local sharks. The penalty was that the benevolent Trinidad colonial administration allowed the "English gentlemen" to flee, whilst others were sent on promotion to other colonial territories to continue their thefts with blessings from the Colonial Office.

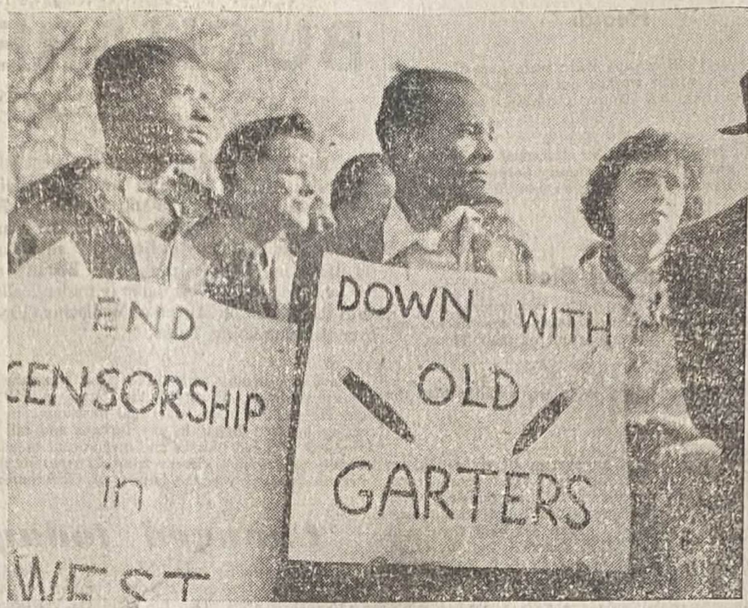
MONEY WASTED

The Caura Dam was to solve the water problem in P.O.S., South and Central Trinidad. After three million dollars (B.W.I.) were spent, the project was closed down. The one-man Commission under Justice Manning provided the necessary excuse for not jailing the culprits by stating that there was not sufficient evidence for prosecution.

The government further exposed this hoax and revealed their policy of lies, when in defence of charges of exceeding his Powers, the Colonial Secretary was forced to confess that the report was, in fact, a "Command Paper" and need not have been brought to the Council before publication. In short, their much flaunted bluff, that the Report formed the basis of the passing of the notorious Powers and Privileges Bill, was called and they were left showing an empty hand.

[C.P.N.S.]

On the Job



Part of the C.L.C. (L.B.) contingent in the May Day demonstration in London
L to R, Carlton Bailey, Rolly Simms, Anne Leeser

C.L.C. BANNER is Held High

ONCE again the delegation of the C.L.C.(L.B.) made a glorious effort at the 1953 May Day Demonstration under the auspices of the great London Trades Council. The West Indians marched under their banner and expressed their feeling through slogans and calypsoes. To name a few: "Down with Rance", "End The Ban On Travel", "We Want Peace", We Want Independence", etc.

All along the route from Shepherds Bush to Hyde Park, people cheered as we passed.

This demonstration has been perhaps the largest ever held in London, and clearly indicates the growing feeling among the British workers for Peace, International working class Solidarity and Colonial Independence.

GOVERNOR BANS CARIBBEAN NEWS

A WEST INDIAN people's paper has been banned in four major territories of the West Indies. The latest is the ban imposed by Sir Hugh Foot, British Colonial Governor of Jamaica, under the Undesirable Publications Act.

The other places in which *Caribbean News* is banned are Trinidad, British Guiana, and St. Vincent.

One is entitled to ask what Sir Hugh Foot finds undersirable in the paper. Could it be that the Anglo-American imperialists do not like the main article contained in the last issue exposing the World Bank moving into Jamaica and threatening to lower the already low standards of the people?

Could be !

Don't miss

C.L,C. (L.B.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, June 7th. 2-30 p.m.
20 Pont Street, S.W.1.
Tube: Knightsbridge

Followed by
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C. L. C. (L.B.)

★ ★ ★

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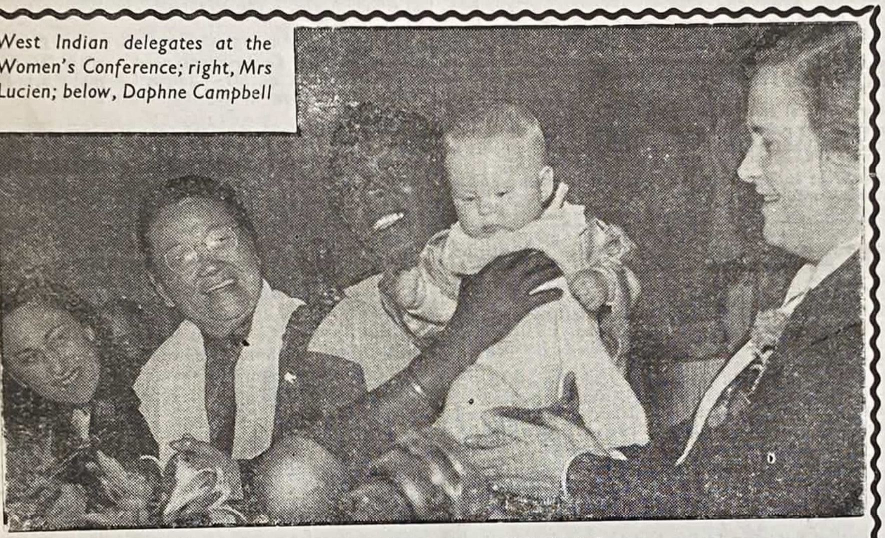
NEWS 6d.

July-August 1953

HANDS OFF GRENADA AND ST. VINCENT PEOPLE'S LEADERS!



West Indian delegates at the Women's Conference; right, Mrs Lucien; below, Daphne Campbell

MISS DAPHNE CAMPBELL (picture on right) left Jamaica by K.L.M. on Saturday, May 30th, for Britain en route to Copenhagen, Denmark, where she represented Jamaica at the International Conference of Women sponsored by the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Miss Campbell, 26, is the delegate of the Jamaica Youth Movement and the People's Educational Organisation, a member of the Pathfinder Club of the Y.W.C.A., an active Trade Unionist and a leading member of the National Labour Party. She went to put the case on the role of Jamaican women in Jamaica's social and political life.

The conference was attended by representatives of seventy-four countries, including countries from both east and west Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

Mrs. Janet Jagen, recently elected Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly of British Guiana, left B.G. on May 31st to attend this conference. She then went on to Budapest for the World Peace Council.

Mrs. Lucien, seen in the picture above, represented Trinidad women at the Conference.

Attempt to shoot Joshua

AN attempt was made to shoot the Hon. Ebenezer Joshua, St. Vincent Labour Leader and member of the Legislative and Executive Council in his home in Kingston some two weeks ago.

A report reaching us states that a shot from an Enfield rifle was fired into his room at 4 a.m. in the morning.

Police are looking high and low for Sardine, the seaman who originally revealed the plot to Joshua, before an enquiry is held into his sworn statement which alleges he was put up by Superintendent Jinkins to shoot or frame Joshua.

(Turn to next page)

RADIO JAMAICA GOES ON STRIKE

From our Jamaica Correspondent, June 5th.

RESPONDING to the call of their Union leaders, twenty-five workers, technicians, clerks, manual labourers and maids, employed by the Monopoly Broadcasting Company (Radio Jamaica) went on strike here demanding higher wages and other improved working conditions. This mass walk-out followed a series of conferences between the Management of the Company and the B.I.T.U. representing the workers.

Countering the Union's demands for increases ranging from 11/- to 22/- per week, the Managing Director of the Company and one of the most notorious labour-haters in this country, offered to "submit the dispute to arbitration", where he and his capitalist allies would be able to "rig" the arbitration Board to suit their own ends, as was the case in the recent Gleaner strike.

Past Lessons

But the lessons of the past have taught the workers how to struggle, and with their rich experience and maturity to fight for their rights when threatened by reactionary employers, Radio Jamaica's workers have instructed the retreating Bustamante Industrial Trade Union to reject completely the fraudulent manoeuvre of the Management's "Arbitration" offer.

In a prepared statement broadcast on the afternoon the strike was called (June 4th), the Company explained their inability to meet the demand of the Union; and reiterated the ridiculous offer of arbitration or nothing.

"The workers will not bow to this threat", a Union Official told me, as he emphasised the workers determination to fight until their demands are met. In the same broadcast "explaining" the history of the dispute from the exploiters' point of view, Bill McLurg, the Manger of the Broadcasting Station, said the Station was being manned by "loyal" workers. The strikers understand that this "loyal" group of workers McLurg boasts about are only strike breakers given a different name.

Chaguaramas Base Lay-off

AMIDST Government's inaction to bring any relief to the unemployed, the American Naval base at Chaguaramas has announced a lay-off of $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of all employees.

By cutting off the line from San Fernando to Princes Town the T.G.R. has put approximately 300 out of work. And now there is a threat to close down the passenger line from San Fernando to Port of Spain which would involve retrenchment of another four hundred workers.

Rance, in a recent speech to the Chamber of Commerce, also threatened that the oilworkers meet either increased production or face reduction in wages and salaries, or retrenchment.

IRON IN B.G.

IT is now officially disclosed that some forty-six million tons of iron ore deposit has been located in the hills along the banks of the Essequibo.

One by one, the geologists and scientists are admitting some of the extent of our untold wealth.

Yet some political careerists come cap-in-hand to London and in return for Park Lane luxuries, put us deeped down in debt to the financiers of imperialism.

Repeated discoveries indicate that the West Indies might even yet be a self-supporting area.

In 1953, however, this is no re-requisite to independence, a more urgent necessity is the maintenance of World Peace.

★ BIRTH ★

CONGRATULATIONS to Vin and Hettie Brown on the happy addition to the family of a bright baby boy.

Best wishes to the trio from "News".

£ $ £ £ £ £ $ £

£ TREASURE CHEST £

Trinidad Central Oilfields

FOR 1952 the nett profit is £63,827, or over 300,000 West Indian dollars. This is after the British Chancellor of the Exchequer has had reserved £80,890 for him.

The shareholders are drawing a 20 per cent. dividend. This is far in excess of the usual dividends received from English investments at home in Britain.

R. Palme Dutt in his book CRISIS OF BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE warns of this situation, notwithstanding the economic threads of the U.S.A.:

> "But this does not mean that Britain's role as world usurer and colonial exploiter has yet come to an end."

Ah well, the price of Empire is very costly to us West Indians. In addition to the excesses already noted, T.C.O. have £70,076 to "carry forward" to next year's account.

Booker Brothers McConnell & Co. Ltd.

(Colonial merchants and traders, Sugar Producers, Shipowners and Rum merchants.)

A RECORD sugar-crop, £1,400,000 of a £1,500,000 **overdraft** cleared off and still £612,715 ($2½ million W.I.) available as distributable profits.

Good old Bookers!

Of course British Guiana is the main hunting-ground, but Mr. J. M. Campbell, the Chairman, tells us that the tentacles spread to Trinidad, Nyasaland, the Rhodesias, United Kingdom, Canada and many other countries.

One might wonder why the report and accounts for 1952 go into detail, by stating that Bookers have 2,400 shareholders and 38,407 employees in BRITISH GUIANA ?

The report also states that the "poor" shareholders only received £327,000 over the past two years, and the wages bill has soared over £6,500,000. On the face of it, all looks very fair and democratic—but, who is enjoying or about to enjoy the appreciated shareholding in the extensive assets running into several millions of dollars ?

Obviously not the B.G. workers, who undoubtedly were the people who made the assets appreciate or rise in value.

So B.G's. new Government need shed no tears for the shareholders as Mr. Campbell would have them do, no matter how he cajoles or threatens:

> "We must face the fact that if shareholders do not get an adequate return on the money they invest in British Guiana and in Bookers, the colony will suffer economic stagnation—and its people much hardship."

ANOTHER YEAR OF STRUGGLE

C.L.C. (London Branch) holds 6th. A.G.M.

THE growing movement in the whole West Indies for National Independence, and the determination of West Indians to struggle to attain this objective was clearly reflected in the speeches, resolutions and main report at the sixth Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), on June 7th.

The spirit of that meeting revealed the tasks before West Indians as not any less, but much greater now that the opportunities for advancing the movement were unfolding.

The special part the C.L.C. can play was brought out from the resolution passed unanimously calling for the immediate convening of a full congress of the C.L.C. in the West Indies, to grasp and unite the forces pushing towards National Independence.

The Chairman, in opening, paid special tribute to someone who could not be present at the meeting but who more than any other was responsible for the good work and success of the London Branch since its inception in 1948, namely Billy Strachan. But from hospital where he was recovering from an operation. Billy sent a moving and inspiring message to the meeting, which drew loud applause. Billy Strachan was later elected to continue as Secretary.

Resolutions were passed on Civil Liberties in the West Indies, calling for the removal of bans on travel, on books, films, and so on; on Kenya; in support of the Fourth World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship to be held in Bucharest this August.

An important step was taken to reduce membership dues from 12/- per year to 5/-, payable in one sum or in two payments.

Common Enemy

Guest speaker was Julius Jacobs, Secretary of the London Trades Council. He put very clearly to the West Indians, the similarity of the struggle of both the West Indian and British workers against their common enemy that knows no colour. For when the "Circus" was held on June 2nd, Malan was at a party and rode in the same coach as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The colour bar did not exist amongst the rulers, but it was used to keep the workers apart, white from black. But when we unite we shall end all oppression.

Those who sold out the movement were not only to be found in the West Indies. The British workers also have their traitors, Julius said. Quite recently, four Trade Union leaders went over to the Tory Steel Board. But he said that these people, by going over to the enemy, had lost all influence amongst the working class. The lesson to be learned was that any leader who betrayed the working class movement and goes over to help the bosses, ceases to be a power.

Comrade Julius Jacobs invited members of the C.L.C. to attend the next meeting of the London Trades Council at which a film would be shown of the May Day Demonstration in which a C.L.C. contingent took part.

The membership elected a new Executive Committee. The Officers remained the same, the only change being Carlton Bayley coming on as second Vice-President.

HANDS OFF LEADERS

from page 1

This follows the publication of a sworn statement by a West Indian seaman, named Sardine, in which he alleged that Lt.-Col. Jinkins, island Police Chief, had incited him to shoot or implicate Joshua on a serious charge.

Last month's issue of the "News" carried the document in full. Joshua called on various friends to stand guard over him, but five of them were subsequently arrested by the police. Sardine himself has "disappeared".

Beaten

Earlier this year Joshua had been arrested, beaten and then made to pay one hundred dollars costs on a sedition charge. The brutal beating inflicted on him even surpassed the ill-treatment meted out by British Guiana police to the Hon. Sydney King of the Peoples Progressive Party, Minister of State and Assemblyman of B.G., on his return a few months ago from Hungary.

Meanwhile, last month in Grenada, the Hon. Eric Gairy, Labour leader and also a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, was ordered to pay sixteen hundred dollars after judgement was found against him on a charge of slandering a local planter. If unable to pay and adjudged bankrupt, he can be disqualified from the Council, where, as Leader of the Colony's biggest Union, he has held a seat since the election, following his imprisonment in the 1951 uprising.

Slander

It was alleged that Gairy claimed this planter's wife discouraged a friend from drinking her husband's brand of rum because it was doped to weaken the Negro workers.

Does this sound like a serious charge in Her Majesty's dignified court ?

Finally, from Trinidad comes the report that members of progressive groups are seeking to raise the ban on B.G. P.P.P. Leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagon. Certain members of the leading progressive group—the West Indian Independence Party—now face the prospect of a three month term for having levelled criticisms against a committee of the Legislature.

West Indians can clearly see from this month's news round-up the full pattern of the new attack on our people's leaders.

Militancy

In the past it was considered enough to ban and browbeat, jail occasionally or bribe with honours. But today all colonial people have grown increasingly aware of the world-wide nature and successes of the anti-imperialist struggle. West Indian leaders have become more militant and more aware of the Carribean wide nature of our own struggle.

And so, in the context of the P.P.P. victory in B.G., colonial governors, immediate agents of Imperialist Britain, have unleashed a new terror to crush this militancy and this move to unified action.

To crush militancy they have resorted to ransacking the law for charges on which to convict the people's leaders. In the Joshua case, Judge Cools Lartigue declared "I will admit that I have been a member of the Bar for some 27 years and this is the first time I have been connected with charges of this nature."

Again, in the Gairy case, the size of the fine makes it all too probable that he may be disqualified from the Councils.

People's Spokesman

To oppose the movement towards more unified action, the Governors have not only banned more and more progressives—an open contradiction of their Federation aims—but have turned their guns on the "Carribean News", main organ of the unity move, and banned it from almost every territory.

Rance of Trinidad has even refused to listen to arguments against the ban whilst Gibbs, of St. Vincents, has over-ridden the Executive Council's protest.

Within the past few months reports from the West Indies sent to your "Carribean News" have "gone astray" in the post, just as Sardine, the self-confessed would-be-assassin, has now "disapeared" in St. Vincent.

The "Caribbean News" is the only organ that can reveal the facts of this wave of oppression and victimisation. It is to the Caribbean Labour Congress that Gairy and Joshua have sent their appeals.

We now appeal to all readers to supply us with all news received from correspondents at home. In this wave of terror other victims may have been attacked. Let us know. Buy the "Caribbean News". Join the Caribbean Labour Congress.

★ Editorial ★

FESTIVAL

HARDLY anyone doubts that world youth friendship can bring mankind closer to peace.

West Indian Youth will have ample opportunity to help bring this about in August in Bucharest.

Furthermore, our struggle for national independence will be immeasurably strengthened if a large number of young West Indians both directly from home and also from among the thousands now in England, went to the Festival.

There they will meet young people in a imilar struggle for their rights. They will e encouraged by their meetings with the many thousands of champions of peace and national independence.

They will be imbued with a new sense of pride in their national culture.

In many ways, going to Bucharest will be a terrific holiday, but along with that we must make certain that we get the most out of it by promoting our struggle for freedom.

A special day will be set aside to mark and demonstrate solidarity with colonial youth struggling for a fuller life.

The Festival is political insofar as it stands for Peace, Friendship and National Independence for peoples living under colonial domination. But there is no particular political or religious creed imposed as a condition.

The Festival provides the ideal opportunity for the most diverse opinions to meet in friendship and understanding.

Let no West Indian between the ages of 14 and 30 stay away for fear that there may be political, religious, or racial bias. For there is NONE.

Don't let the cost or the time daunt you either. We know it is hard for West Indians even in Britain to get together £33, with many unemployed and others barely ekeing out an existence. But we must spare no effort in trying to surmount these problems together.

There are still barely literally a few days left to register for the Festival. We ask every West Indian who wants to be at this glorious estival in Bucharest this August, to contact the Secretary, West Indian Festival Committee through the form provided on page 5. Or ring WIMBLEDON 3397 late at night.

HURRY, NOW, OR YOU WILL BE TOO LATE!

★

ROSENBERG

DEFYING protests and appeals from all over the world from people representing the most diverse opinions and faiths, the Yankee imperialist government has murdered Julius and Ethel Rosenburg, two ordinary people who put truth and honour before perfidy, bribery and life itself.

With all honest people the world over, West Indians in London took part in demonstrations in an attempt to save the innocent people.

When the Eisenhower butchers murdered Julius and Ethel Rosenburg they thought they were killing opposition to their infamous policy of war and facism, but what they really killed was whatever sympathy there still existed for the American imperialist policy and system.

The Rosenburgs will live for ever!

Cultural Opportunities in the West Indies

by Eric Deslandes

WHENEVER I hear of efforts to develop West Indian culture, I am reminded of the well-known adage, "You must bend the tree when it is young," for although culture as such, knows no barrier of race or colour, yet it is always the most original contributions from a country and its people which make cultural expressions so unique, distinctive and admirable to all races.

In the same way that the talents of every individual vary, so it is that every race of people attain their particular cultural code. That is why British West Indians view their own cultural attainments with some misgivings, for their culture finds its roots from the four corners of the earth, and like most colonies it is dominated by the influences of the ruling power of the day.

The Arts in all their manifestations, i.e., painting, sculpture, folklore, dance, folk-songs, literature, drama, etc., are the fundamental make-up of culture. Hence to maintain and develop any, or all, of these along a unique and original line, is what West Indians mean by furthering the development of their native culture.

Migrating Talent

Because of varied ethnic compositions, however, and because the nationalistic aspirations of our people are thwarted by colonialism, it is perhaps unavoidable that we sometimes wonder if we have so far achieved anything approaching a truly national culture.

But culture will strive as long as the world lasts, for culture and man are inseparable. It is not surprising, therefore, that our boys and girls are proudly taking their place among the world's best, through all the media of the Arts.

It is noticeable, however, that while progressive elements in the West Indies devote much time to encouraging the growth of a native culture, the more talented members of the community are forced to migrate owing to lack of opportunities for advancement. In relation to its population no other country in the world has produced the number of talented artists and sportsmen, as the West Indies have within the last one hundred years.

National Independence

Ironically enough, most of them make their name abroad, and because migration in most cases is forced upon the people, the question then arises: what must be done to encourage our up and coming talented youngsters while at home?

The first requisite is national independence which will give our people more national pride and responsibility. 'Hasn't it ever occurred to the present generation that there are countless West Indian patriots, and men and women of note who have passed over the years, and our history books carry no mention of them?

Unlike other countries which commemorate the deeds of their heroes in the erection of statues and land-marks, West Indians are asked to forget their patriots by censored school curricula prepared by the ruling power of the day and rammed into the minds of the young and innocent.

In the West Indies, our colonial rules couldn't care tuppence about our talented inhabitants. No provisions are made to give them steady jobs or offer them such positions that would give them a chance to promote and utilize their craft for the benefit of all.

During my stay in England I have come across a true cross-section of West Indian personalities. Men and women from whose talents our coming generation would benefit immensely. Many are the stories they will tell you of heartbreaks and disappointments, whilst trying to make a name at home.

Pathetic Story

Jamaica's one and only Alvin T. Marriott, renowned sculptor who received worthy comments from the American Press for a presentation of a bust to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and whose carvings of outstanding Jamaican personalities are to this day unbeatable, is now residing in England. Alvin's story is a pathetic one.

In 1947 he was offered a scholarship by the British Council to further his study of sculpture in England, a course which he completed with credit. Returning to Jamaica he was promised a job with the newly erected University College of the West Indies, which did not materialise.

Meanwhile in the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, Councillors passed a resolution advocating the erection of a statue to the memory of the late Marcus Garvey. It was suggested that Alvin should undertake the job, but the scheme fell through. This sculpture was faced with the prospect of taking on any job to make a living, so he decided to return to England.

Athletes, Artistes

Then there is young E. Percell, Jamaican-born scientist, whose name is well known in Canada where he is now residing. He is a cousin of N. W. Manley, Q.C., the West Indian barrister.

Poetess Una Marson of B.B.C. fame; ace calypso-composers, Lord Beginner and Kitchener and Europe domiciled.

Adolphe Roberts, Jamaican novelist is now a U.S.A. citizen, as was the case of the late Claude McKay, Jamaican novelist and poet. Louise Bennett, poetess and entertainer is now residing in the U.S.A.

The Trinidadian wonder girl, Hazel Scott, wife of Congressman Clayton Powell, is also residing in the U.S.A.

Actors Uriel Porter and Berta Pasuka, the latter of Ballet Negre fame; Earl Cameron (Bermuda), pianist Winifred Atwell (Trinidad); actress Mary Morris (Grenada), are but a few who have hit the headlines in show business in England.

Also leading the field in sports are Arthur Wint (Jamaica) who is finishing a course in medicine; E. MacDonald Bailey (Trinidad); Lindy Delaphena (Jamaica) professional footballer who is an ex-Middlesbrough centre forward; Leary Constantine (Trinidad), lecturer and veteran cricketer; the cricket immortal George Headley from Jamaica, and cruiser-weight boxer Yolande Pompee from Trinidad, and others . . . enough to fill a book.

Raw Deal

West Indians at home and abroad are proud of the achievements of these sons and daughters of the soil, but among them how many have not left their homes feeling bitter by the raw deal dished out to them?

Let us pledge ourselves, one and all, that when National independence becomes a reality, we will encourage and stimulate interest among our more talented brethren in the development of our national culture.

And while we beat our feet to the pulsating melodies of Lord Beginner's calypsos or marvel at the versatility of Winifred Atwell's renditions, let us remember the words of Thomas Gray:

> "Full many a gem,
> Of purest ray serene,
> The dark unfathom caves of ocean bear . . .
> Full many a flower was born to blush unseen
> And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

He's out at last

NEWS that friends of Billy Strachan have eagerly awaited is now here.

Billy has at last been well enough to be discharged from hospital over the weekend 20/6/53. He will still be an out-patient for a while. But it is encouraging to have him with us again.

He was elected in his absence at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the London Branch (C.L.C.) to continue as Secretary, a post which he has held for five years.

Face the FACTS Mr. PERRYMAN

The latest issue of the West Indian Students' Union magazine carried an article signed by one C. Owen Perryman, attacking the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch). This reply is not an attack upon the West Indian Students' Union for fortunately, the presumptious Perryman does not speak for the majority of West Indian Students.

SO glaring are the contradictions and inconsistencies in Mr. Perryman's article that they could be advanced only by the greenest political greenhorn.

The entire kernel of what Mr. Perryman wants to say is said in the third and sixth paragraphs of his article. In the third paragraph he states:

"Let us face the facts and agree that the colour discrimination not only in Brixton but throughout the United Kingdom is appalling; that in many cases wages are too meagre in the West Indies, for the worker to lead a married life that is so essential for the stability that he needs. Let us admit that grim labour conditions abound in British Honduras, Jamaica and the small undeveloped islands, the workers and stowaways arriving in the United Kingdom have experienced these conditions, the students should know about them. Many of us do not approve of, and resent, American influence, some have suffered under their racialism when bases were leased. Most of us are in favour of Federation and look forward to it. In fact most of the 'sore' points dealt with in the paper are true enough, and should **be common knowledge to the average West Indian.**"

"Perrymanism"

Ignoring the fact that Perryman started his article by stating that he thought it "rather unfortunate that some West Indians undertook to sell a political newspaper ("Caribbean News) at the door of the Hammersmith Town Hall . . !" and thus violently contradicts himself in his first three paragraphs, he goes on to state in the sixth paragraph that:

"The answer seems to me to be that all those in authority, Government officials, employers, planters and merchants, should each conscientiously consider the conditions of the individual workers in his charge and take some practical action now, in as personal a matter as is possible to improve their lot, perhaps the best form of help which could be given the workers, would be encouragement and guidance in helping themselves."

That may be the answer to a one-eyed man but anyone with normal vision and a correct political understanding would surely ask why if "those in authority" have the power to remove ills of society they have not done so?

Serenity

Look at what benefit it would bring them. The people would be happy and eternally grateful. There would be no chance of "Communists stirring them up" because there would be nothing to stir them up about. The people would spend their leisure time playing and singing calypsos and watching cricket, and the foreign-owned companies would without any fear keep drawing their fat profits.

But that is the bitter bit. It is not possible for the foreign-owned companies to keep drawing fat profits if the ills of West Indian society are to be tackled successfully.

The infantile mortality race of Trinidad is increasing not because medical science lacks the knowledge to defeat child-birth fever, but because the natural resources of Trinidad (like the other territories) have been monopolised by a few companies which cannot build more clinics or pay higher taxes to build more clinics or pay their workers higher wages save at the expense of their shareholders in the City of London, who send their pregnant women-folk to exclusive London clinics and to the South of France to recuperate.

Relativity?

The relationship of foreign-owned companies to the West Indian people may be summed up in the equation:

> Fat profits for foreign-owned companies = maximum poverty and distress of the West Indian people.

From this it follows that:

> A happy, healthy, stable life for West Indians = no profit for foreign-owned companies.

The rest of Perryman's article is a rehash of the now conventional anti-communist "attack". There is no need to vindicate the Communist Party here. Suffice to say that the only reason such attacks are necessary is that Marxist philosophy has been vindicated in the eyes of the overwhelming majority of the world's population.

Some doubtful remarks cast on the recent Prague trials seem to call for comment. West Indians who attended the World Youth Festival in Berlin in 1951 can testify to the blatant methods used by the American imperialists against the inhabitants of the socialist sectors.

Provocations

Close above the heads of the tightly packed crowds American helicopters would hover dropping leaflets. It only needed a mistake on the part of the pilot or a mechanical failure to send the machine plunging into the crowds of young people.

Recent attempts to corrupt certain leading members of the C.L.C. (London Branch) and other incidents make it plain to all West Indians that not only are they spying in Eastern Europe but so long as there is imperialism in the West Indies, efforts will be made to buy out militant West Indian trade union and political leaders. The recent offer of the Americans to the Korean and Chinese pilots is an example of the esteem which imperialism places on treachery, and on money.

The West Indian people like the Korean and Chinese have their price. It cannot be computed in pounds sterling or American dollars. But the imperialists will pay it. Their greedy parasitic grip on the property of the West Indian people will be smashed.

That which they have looted will be squeezed from them like corn from the craw of a greedy chicken.

The brilliant victory of the P.P.P. of British Guiana shows that the West Indian people are in no mood for grovelling before the foreign exploiters of our territory.

New Forces

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) stands for the new forces in the West Indies, who desiring friendship and peaceful relations with all countries, Britain as well as China, the U.S.S.R. as well as America, Albania as well as Bolivia, will never see the West Indies bowed in subjection to any.

We know where the threat to our liberty comes from. We know who profits from our being clad in rags, from our children being uneducated. And of these things and those who profit from them we have an unlimited and implacable hatred. No obstacle is so difficult, no sacrifice so great that we will not make it in the struggle for the independence of our country and for healthy, happy, peaceful life for our people.

Our Vision

Out of the filth, poverty and suffering of present day life in the West Indies we see arising a new West Indies, with workers, peasants, professionals, progressive businessmen, housewives, farmers, united in the struggle for the ending of foreign exploitation, marching forward to build the life we all want.

Such a new West Indies—a People's West Indies—would first through bartering our produce for the necessary machinery establish the industrial base for our new economy. Such a People's Democracy in the West Indies would never allow any foreign-owned companies to operate inside the West Indies. It would sign trade agreements with such countries as were willing and able to respect our sovereignty and national aspirations.

Such things we see ahead. Such things are possible. It is because we speak of things such as these that this paper is banned, efforts are made to buy off members of our organisation, and "attacks" launched from imperialist quarters against us.

We are impervious to such disruptive methods. Every slander will be met with facts and every ban by new ingenuities.

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM! VICTORY TO THE WEST INDIAN PEOPLES!

ICFTU GETS BATTERING FROM AFRICAN UNIONS

HARD blows for the I.C.F.T.U.

The Central Executive Council of the 13,000 strong Railway Workers Union of Nigeria under the leadership of Mr. M. A. Imoudu has issued a six-point statement severing its relations with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, otherwise known as the Scab International.

The statement makes the point that, "the I.C.F.T.U. is an association of the 'free' trade unions, but neither our organisation nor our country is free".

At the end of the second world war the World Federation of Trade Unions emerged under the banner of international working-class solidarity irrespective of race, creed or colour, the I.C.T.F.U. broke away to satisfy its greedy masters. The statement adds:

"The I.C.F.T.U. is a breakaway organisation and we do not subscribe to such moves especially as we feel that the international solidarity of workers which has been built up over the years was becoming a telling factor in the struggle for the betterment of workers . . ."

Lure of Gold

The statement continues: ". . . the I.C.F.T.U. in concert with those interested are doing overtime to keep Nigerian trade unionists discouraged. Where labour leaders are adamant they are enlisted with scholarship awards, invitations to meaningless conferences coupled with fabulous allowances for the duration of such meetings. How do we know that our leaders will not be dazzled by the lure of gold?"

The statement adds: "The result is that few trade unionists agree to the fundamental whispering campaign of hate launched against those on the other side of the fence, and a strong central trade union organisation which should be the paramount concern of all does not exist." And demands that the I.C.F.T.U. "leaves us alone."

The General Wood Workers Union of Nigeria has also denounced the scab international. The General Secretary, Mr. Uzokwe Ezeobi, said, "Imperialism has a policy of putting into office and supporting reactionary labour leaders and using them to achieve its political aims. This is found in the I.C.F.T.U."

Imperialistic

The Ghana (Gold Coast) Trade Union Congress at its third annual conference unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the I.C.F.T.U. and described it as the "Imperialistic I.C.F.T.U.".—(Times News Agency.)

Footnote: Grantley Adams, C.M.G., who is the chief I.C.F.T.U. agent in the Caribbean Area, stated, while speaking to The Fabian Society in London on 27th May, that the Peoples Progressive Party of British Guiana would not last six months.

VIOLENCE IN BERLIN

by Rolly Simms

THE choice of words used to describe the recent provocations in East Berlin must have been very confusing to West Indians and other Colonials used to hearing the capitalist papers of Britain denouncing in the most righteous tones any attempts of the Colonial people to right the wrongs of colonialism by force.

It was quite a surprise to read in the capitalist press, murder, arson and looting being sympathetically described. Whatsoever may be the rights or wrongs of the recent Berlin disturbances, the oft repeated story that the "Western democracies" do not believe in violence to gain their ends has been contradicted by the glee with which they gloated and speculated on what was happening in Berlin.

If the British capitalist press which has been violently opposed to the struggle of Kenyans and Malayans to free themselves and are never tired of telling Colonials not to follow the examples of Kenya and Malaya, now appear in full-blooded support of what they term "revolution" in East Germany, then we must look at this "Revolution" they are supporting.

DOLLARS

"The New Statesman and Nation" (19.6.53) commenting on the events said, "Western assertions that the riots were spontaneous must be read in the context of public knowledge that millions of dollars have been spent in agents and radio programmes designed to produce exactly this effect." Quick as lightning, Eisenhower announced (19.6.53) he was granting **another** fifty million dollars "aid" to West Berlin.

The Mutual Security Act passed by the United States Congress in 1951 provides 100 million dollars for espionage and sabotage inside East Germany and other European democracies.

This Government of the German Democratic Republic has not hesitated in its attempts to unify the whole of Germany and to end the Four Power Occupation, and on June 9th and 10th it announced far reaching measures. These measures could be summarised as (1) credits were given to small traders; (2) the plan for building heavy industry was revised, in order that more consumer goods could be made; (3) substantial concessions were made to the farmers; (4) all those convicted of crimes other than sabotage against the state were amnestied; (5) east-west travel restrictions were lifted; (6) a comprehensive agreement with the Evangelical Church was reached.

The West German Adenauer Government was terrified at these moves in view of their popularity with the overwhelming majority of the population.

It has now been discovered that armed groups parachuted into East Germany, and lorry loads of ammunition were discovered on the Berlin-Leipzig road.

Several persons, including a former SS commandant of a concentration camp, have confessed that they were paid to go over into East Berlin in groups to organise the disturbances.

The disturbance was easily put down because it had no mass support. Unlike Malaya where Britain has been fighting for five years and has used every method from head-hunting ("Caribbean News", Feb., 1953) to chemical warfare, have killed thousands of Malayan people.

The disturbances were organised by the American gangs with the purpose of putting back the big land barons in Mecklenburg and Saxony.

Those West Indians who visited Germany in 1951 and travelled to these areas can testify to how the land was divided up among the former landless peasants.

People's Government

It was also for the purpose of re-installing in the whole of Berlin persons of the kind who stoned Sugar-Ray Robinson with bottles on his first and last visit to West Berlin.

For West Indians, these incidents underline the ever present need for unity in the working-class movement. When the building workers of Berlin marched to the Government Offices they were exercising their constitutional rights, as the "Daily Express" noted, "Not a policeman interfered".

The Government realising the justness of the building workers claim, immediately issued a decree removing the order that had offended them. But the enemies of Peace and National Independence were not asleep and 14 hours after the building workers demonstration had ended, poured their hired assassins across the border.

JUNE 16th.

Memorable Day in history of B.G.

FIVE years since the shooting of five stalwart Guianese workers, their names are carved forever in the history of the West Indies National Liberation Movement. We will never forget Harry JUG, DHOOKIE, RAMBARRAN, BAGI and 19-year-old POORAN, brutally murdered at Enmore Sugar Estate, East Coast Demerara, British Guiana, June 16th, 1948.

"Shoot 'em down"

From mid-April 1948 to June, a strike of cane-cutters on all eight estates of the East Coast remained unbroken. The only way for the mill-owners to get their factories operating was to grant the wage increases, justly demanded by the workers, or to try to drive them back to work by intimidation.

Naturally the bosses preferred the cheaper way, so on the flimsiest of excuses the workers were shot. Not even the Venn Commission which was sent to whitewash the incident could completely hide the truth and it had to admit that "we are, however, of the opinion that the evidence has established that after the first few shots there was firing which went beyond the requirements of the situation."

Final Reckoning

The Imperial Government's only reply to that was to brush aside all appeals for some compensation for the three wives and eight children left fatherless, and to give the leader of the firing squad the Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

The fifth anniversary of their martyrdom finds tremendous changes taking place in British Guiana. The Peoples Progressive Party has achieved a resounding victory on a programme of radical changes. The day of reckoning draws a little closer for those who killed the Enmore Five, but the price has yet to be paid.

PREPARE FOR FESTIVAL

WITH only five weeks to go at the time of writing before West Indians leave, with other youth from Britain, to attend the World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship in Bucharest, the atmosphere is beginning to approach Festival pitch.

West Indians in Britain are indicating a keen desire to make the Festival, although most are finding it difficult because of the cost, £33.

The West Indian Festival Committee has issued an attractive leaflet calling on West Indians to "Join in this gay Festival of Peace and Friendship with young people from over a hundred countries."

Lord Beginner

Rehearsals have begun on the cultural programme with calypsos and a dramatic sketch. Lord Beginner, of calypso fame, is composing a special calypso for the Bucharest Festival and is assisting in the cultural preparations.

The Committee is making efforts also to raise money for its fund to assist West Indians to get to the Festival.

A successful social has been held and more are being planned.

The colour film of the Berlin Festival has also been shown to get registrations and to raise money.

Badges

Other details are that special cloth badges have been made and will be on sale about one shilling each.

The urgency now is to get those last minute registrations before the closing date and have more West Indian young men and girls taking part in the cultural rehearsals.

The Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago is expected to send a delegation. Their dances and calypsos will bring a message, it will tell of their suffering under British Colonialism. Youth from Britain will hear their songs and understand their meaning for they, too, have had inroads made in to their culture, they also have suffered the ills of "occupation".

Olympic Champs Coming

The Programme for Culture and Sports has appealed to sportsmen in every country. Could you afford the Olmypic Games in Helsinki? How you would have liked to see the record performances of Emile Zatopec.

Did you as a West Indian stand spell-bound as Herb McKenley crashed the tape with Remiggino of the United States in the 100 metre sprint? Do you still discuss who was first at the tape? How you would have liked to cheer George Rhoden as he glided to victory in 400 metres relay. Have you met Dana Zatopkoya, the world Javelin throwing champion or Joseph Czermax the Olympic Hammer Throwing Champion?

These gallant sportsmen and women will all take part in the friendly sports meeting at the Festival this August. The Jamaican Federation of light athletics has announced the participation of McKenley and Rhoden in these sporting highlights of the year.

Don't miss it!

As young Iranian dancers capture through their dances the charming legend on Ancient Persia, West Indians will applaud. West Indians in Britain should also be there to applaud. There is a place for you at the Festival. You, I am sure, share the sentiment of Jean Voidies when inspired by the Berlin Festival he wrote:

> "We swear to live better, to leave as our heritage
> A triumphal Arch for those who shall follow us.
> Nature is ours, bedecked with Spring.
> We shall stand erect and live life in its fullness."

J. Vass Jackson

To WEST INDIAN
Festival Committee
17 Bishop's Bridge Road,
London, W.2.

Please send me more details of the World Youth Festival in BUCHAREST.

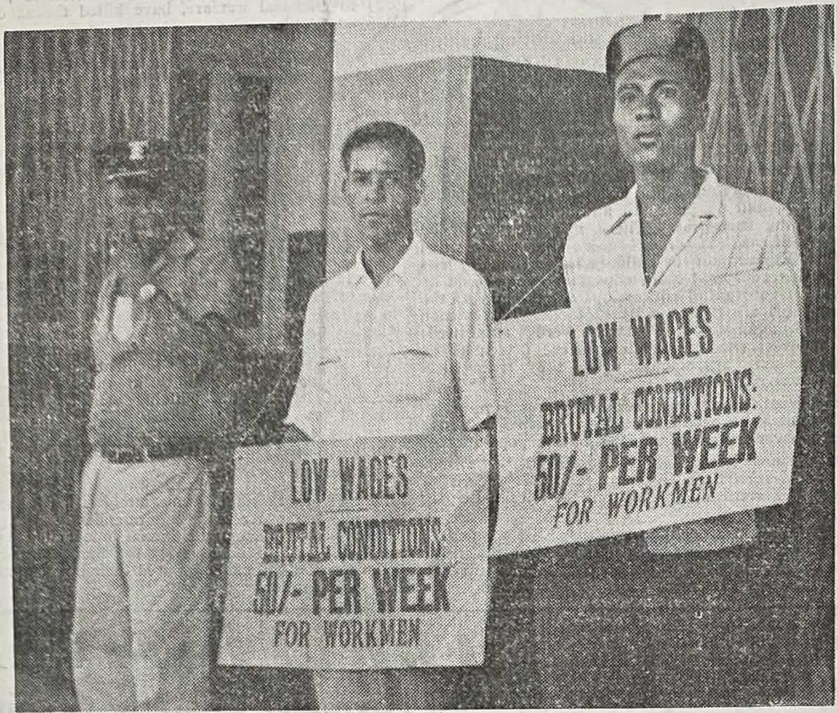
Name ....

Address ....

....

JAMAICA'S ENGINEERS FIGHT AGAINST BRUTAL CONDITIONS

From Chris Lawrence



THE three hundred and twenty mechanics and garage workers of Jamaica's largest engineering plant and garage and service station owned by Henriques Bros., went on strike on May 10th against their starvation wages and inhuman working conditions. Tolerance of the men at the Kingston Industrial Works and the Kingston Industrial Garage who had been pressing for reforms for years had reached an end.

Workers in both plants unhesitatingly downed tools, marched out together and established picket lines making the once busy plants at Darling Street and Church Street look like a grim graveyard.

Up to the fourth week of the strike there was all prospect of victory so long as union leaders supported the rank and file wholeheartedly. There no longer existed the old sorrowful state of one union breaking a strike which it did not call.

So the B.I.T.U. issued a leaflet calling upon the public to support the workers, a plea which received full support. It seemed that the days of one unionist blackmailing the other had passed—a practice, incidentally, introduced by Bustamente himself.

100 o/o Profits

You will be shocked to know that at both plants: over 50 per cent. of the workers get LESS than £3 per week. The Company has only offered 1/6d. per week increase for some workers. Workmen with up to **37 years' service** now get 56/- per week. No pension, no savings, no insurance is provided for workmen. At Kingston Industrial Works, workers do not get any pay on public holidays. The Company makes up to 100 per cent. profit on parts; up to £140 profit on a new car. Workmen are conveniently called "apprentices" and paid 40/- per week.

Apprentice Wage

A visit to the picket lines uncovered the information that apprentices, after from two to six years service, are paid from 10/- to 15/- per week and that there is no definite period established for these youngsters to be promoted to tradesman status. They perform as equally skilled operations as other men in the plants.

These men are represented by the champion of Labour, the champion of the Government, the champion of foreign capital and the defender of local big business—William Alexander Bustamente. Their prospects, therefore, do not look bright.

As the firm is enjoying such fat profits by virtue of the miserable wages and conditions under which the men work, the union, 18 months ago, put forward the following claims.

A general increase on wages of 25 per cent. Establishment by management of a provident fund and pension scheme financed by workers and management. Payment for public holidays on time and a half basis. Nothing was said in this claim about the apprentices.

Don't be surprised, this was brazenly rejected by management who today sometimes make a profit of £140 on a single item. They have boldly offered as an alternative a worthless 5 per cent. wage increase and contemptuously ignored the other demands. Negotiations between both parties had broken down three times, with management plugging with might and main to take the matter to arbitration where they will find a safe avenue, for their fellow capitalists, as arbitrator, would have undoubtedly decided in their favour.

But workers had learnt from years of experience to fight just as bitterly against arbitration, which had always landed them in the same position as before the struggle. So the strike went on.

Latest News

Latest reports received from our Jamaican correspondent now reveal that workers had agreed to return to work on the 8th of June, with assurances that their will be no victimisation.

A conference was to be held on the 15th to re-examine the companies' proposals and the union's claims.

That was the situation as this paper went to press.

Foreign Investors

At the Annual General Meeting of the Jamaican Chamber of Commerce held a few weeks ago, one of the executive officers declared to his audience and issued a statement to the Press calling upon all trade union leaders to resist irresponsible wage demands made by trade unionists who "frighten away" foreign investors from investing their money here.

So-called champions of the working class obediently react to the whip of the industrial slave owners. Both management and Labour leaders are all brothers of the same secret lodge, either members of the I.C.F.T.U. or members of the International M.R.A.. But the struggle against starvation wages, inhuman working conditions for social security against exploitation of youth labour, against corrupt union and political leaders, continues.

JIM CROW

BRIXTON—Paddington—where next ?

Following the attempts (unsuccessful) of certain Brixton Publicans, the Westminster Arms, Praed Street, Paddington, has been refusing to serve coloured customers in the Saloon Bar. The Administrative Officer of the League of Coloured Peoples, Mr. Collymore, who is a lawyer, visited the Westminster Arms with witnesses and was treated in a shocking and disgraceful manner by the Publican. Since then, objection has been lodged with the Public House Licensing Authority.

All who fight against the colour-bar—that most evil manifestation of imperialism—are sure of our support and of all decent people everywhere.

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Join the C.L.C. (L.B.) now and help the fight for freedom in B.G.

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

September-October 1953

HANDS OFF GUIANA!

The British Tories have smashed the B.G. Constitution which enabled the P.P.P. to win the recent elections. Because they are on the side of the workers and are not supporting Big Business to break the sugar strike they are thrown out at the planters' demand.

The labour movement in Britain is already following the lead of the C.L.C.(L.B.) in demanding withdrawal of troops and restoration of the elected government.

Strike scared bosses

SUGAR MILLS are now quiet in British Guiana. Not a labourer works in the fields, as fifty thousand sugar employees in field and factory enter the fifth week of their unbroken colony-wide strike—greatest in the history of this colony.

Responding to a strike call by the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union (an affiliate of the Agricultural Workers' section of the W.F.T.U.) on August 31st, about 50,000 sugar estate workers have completely shut down the sugar industry of British Guiana.

All of the 26 sugar plantations including 14 sugar manufacturing factories have answered the strike call for improved working conditions, better pay and recognition of the union by the Sugar Producers' Association. The demands include 15 per cent increase for field workers, 5 per cent per hour increase for factory workers, the abolition of cut and load system, or an increase in cut and loading canes to 7 shillings per ton, Government sworn weighers at cane scales, pay for time spent waiting on punts to load cane, reinstatement of workers victimised from previous strikes, basic rates for all operations in the field and standardisation of tasks for field workers, and better drinking water supply in the cane fields.

(continued on page 6)

WEST INDIES
YOUTH

AT THE FESTIVAL. Part of the West Indian delegation in Bucharest preparing to march with their banner in the closing demonstration.

SEE PAGE 5 for reports of the YOUTH Festival.

Jamaica campaigns against Crown Colony Federation

IN Jamaica a Committee has been set up by the People's Educational Organisation to draft a strong Programme for action to fight against Crown Government Federation, and to fight militantly for Federation with Dominion Status.

Jamaica is now conducting a wide "Poster Campaign" with the slogan: **THE CLARION — THE VOICE OF THE CARIBBEAN. NO FEDERATION WITHOUT DOMINION STATUS.**

In one night alone, a team of 16 canvassers of the committee posted no less than 120 posters at ideal points, including the Kings Street statues, which make the posters easily recognisable from a great distance.

On all public platforms, speakers have been provided to popularise and expose this blatant political and economic fraud committed by the British Imperialists against the people of the Caribbean.

TRINIDAD T.U.C. SEEKS SOCIAL INSURANCE

THE Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council organised a Conference on Social Insurance and Social Security at the Town Hall San Fernando on Sunday 16th August, 1953. The conference was the first of its kind in our country. It was attended by a Borough Councillor, a County Councillor, delegates from a friendly society and the Pan African League from the Women's Auxiliary Group of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union and the West Indian Independence Party. The Hon. E. T. Joshua, member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council of St. Vincent, was the guest of the conference

The reports of Oveste Lizarde for the Italian Delegation, Henri Raynaud for the French Delegation, L. V. Solovieu for the Russian Delegation, and the memorandum prepared by the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council and the West Indian Independence Party on Social Insurance and Social Security of Trinidad and Tobago were read and discussed. Time did not allow for the presentation of the African report.

Joint Action

The Conference called for a Caribbean conference on Social Insurance and Social Security, and for joint action between the Trades Union Council and the local International Confederation of Free Trades Unions affiliates to solve the unemployment problem. The letter to the local I.C.F.T.U., affiliates has already been forwarded.

It was noticed that there was an International Conference recommendation to hold a conference in Latin America in 1954. Our conference renewed the call for that conference.

It was also announced that there will be two Unemployment demonstrations held on Sunday 6th September, in Point Fortin, and Monday 7 September, in Port-of-Spain, as a means of stepping up the struggle for Social Insurance and Social Security.

IMPERIALIST IMPOSED BANS LIFTED BY P.P.P. LEGISLATORS

THE majority party in the new House of Assembly, the People's Progressive Party, which won 18 of the 24 seats in April 27th elections, yesterday introduced and passed a bill to repeal the Undesirable Publications Ordinance, 1953.

This ordinance had been passed two months prior to the first elections under universal suffrage in an effort to suppress the activities of the militant P.P.P., which had been distributing literature on a mass scale.

Cheddi Jagan, leader of the House and Minister of Agriculture, said that this move to repeal the "subversive literature bill" was the first move by his Party to wipe from the statute books all those laws which were forced upon the people by the ruling class, in order to maintain their power.

Every dog . . .

When Dr. Jagan was the only virulent opponent to the Undesirable Publication Bill passed by the former Legislative Council, and spoke for seven hours to delay the passage of the Bill, he had told the legislators "Every dog has his day".

Yesterday, he reminded them that the day had come and the people's representatives were now repealing the undemocratic law which sought to prohibit books from entering the Colony. Dr. Jagan bitterly attacked Jamaica's leader Bustamante for allowing book banning and banning of persons from Jamaica and condemned the "impounding" of passports of persons wishing to travel abroad.

He referred to the recent move by the Jamaica government to prevent youth leaders from leaving the colony to attend the World Festival of Youth in Bucharest.

'Impudence'

Ashton Chase, Minister of Labour, called the old law an "atrocious piece of legislation", and Assemblyman Fred Bowman, former sugar worker, referred to the "impudence of the instigators of the Bill" who wanted to keep the working class in ignorance in order to maintain its position of power.

L. F. S. Burnham, Minister of Education declared "We don't want another McCarty in British Guiana."

The bill repealing the old legislation now goes to the nominated State Council (upper house) and the Governor for assent.

* * *

LAST WEEK the leader of the House, Cheddi Jagan, announced that the bans imposed by the British Guiana government on important West Indian labour leaders had been lifted.

These bans declared before the People's Progressive Party won the elections prevented Ferdinand Smith, W.F.T.U., Jamaica born from entering B.G., also Richard Hart, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress, Billy Strachan, Secretary C.L.C. (London Branch) and Jamaica born; John La Rose, Secretary West Indian Independence Party, Trinidad. Quintin O'Connor, Secretary Trinidad T.U.C., and John Rojas, President Oilworkers Union, Trinidad.

This move opens the doors of British Guiana to all Caribbean leaders who are planning an important Caribbean Labour Conference this year.

'COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT' — THE CAPITALIST WAY

IN 1948, Mr. Robinson, a Tory M.P., obtained a loan of £205,371 for his company, to further exploit the gold resources of British Guiana.

He's doing well too. A few months ago he reported via the annual report of the British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Ltd., that productions had soared to 18,567 ounces. His profit this year is £73,831.

Who's Jim Griffiths or Oliver Lyttleton, to try and pull this one over our eyes? Colonial Development Corporation funds were raised from taxpayers in England——see the swiz? Robinson & Co. reap double benefit at both our expense and that of the British workers. Capitalists' political theory in practice. This is only one example, but for a real exposure of the shocking miseries heaped on colonial people, see R. P. Dutt's "Crisis of Britain and the British Empire."

But let's return to the "practice"; Robinson & Co. has repaid £26,667, but now has mutually agreed NOT to repay any further until December 31st., 1956, and then that will only be the first instalment of fifteen annual ones. Whew! Colonial development?

No one is fooled to-day, and PPP victory is a truly timely warning to the cunning group of phoney two-cent politicians that have oppressed us with bible and sword, tear-gas and bayonet. This is not high finance, it is USA-Chicago methods.

OUR OWN

One day soon, there will be a Colonial Development. After the Peoples' Parties have swept the puppet governments in the British Caribbean from power and set up a Federal Democratic State, we will really develop—immediate industrialisation, subsidised agriculture, national state bank and fair reciprocal trade, where it will benefit the West Indies. No one else but with those countries that have no necessary economic interest in acquiring or controlling our wealth, that is, those countries that are based on a socialist economy.

B.G. Gold, Bauxite, Uranium and some 300 other minerals are our corner stones—what more glittering base for a Peoples Democracy standing firmly astride the dazzling blue Caribbean.

LETTER BOX

POVERTY AND DISEASE

DR. D. B. Yeliffe, Lecturer at U.C.W.I., is reported by the "Gleaner" (15/6/53) to have said that liver disease was a most startling thing in Jamaica, and prevalent among the poorer peasant-class of children.

Said the doctor:: "The cause was largely based on malnutrition and misuse of certain bush tea". He also said that malnutrition was not due to vitamin deficiency but to lack of protein.

Now, acknowledging Jamaica as an agricultural island, we are entitled to ask why can't the island develop the amenities which contain these substances for the healthy living of the working masses—viewing the advancement in the field of scientific methods which are used against these evils in other countries?

We deem it right in saying that the scientific knowledge and the resources of Jamaica are not being exploited for the benefit of the masses on the whole, but for immense profits for a few.

It can also be said that had 25% of these profits been used for the welfare of the masses, then dire poverty and such diseases arising therefrom could have been something of the past, instead of a nightmare of the working masses.

Ralph Bennett

BILLY'S CORNER

Tinpot Politician

. . . . .as I walk down the Strand,
I think of my homeland. . . .
and remember an eminent lawyer who poses as a politician in Jamaica, telling another West Indian and myself, that West Indians must not interfere in international matters.

But now Grantley Adams (Barbados) spends very little time in Barbados; Geneva, London, Stockholm, etc., are his playgrounds, he's accompanied by Michael Manley, who now dabbles in the politico-trade union problems of a suspicious body known as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Poor tinpot politician, even if a successful bourgeois advocate, standing like Canute, forehead high in the Caribbean fed from the seven seas and a million rivers.

Sugar Pact

The London national press tells us of the International Sugar Pact, which among other things restricts our sugar production. It curtails our stocks to an amount equal to 20% of our annual production, immediately before the start of the new crop.

We are in on this, whether we like it or not, we are within the scope of those shackles, labelled the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement of 1951.

Oh, to be an ostrich and bury our future in the sunbaked soil of the Caribbean Islands . . .

Yankees interested

And now the Yankees headed by millionaire Eugene Black, have issued their demands on British Guiana —the report of the International Bank mission which spent six weeks there early this year.

For Jamaica, Wall Street demanded permission to invest £34 million, for B.G., they demand 56 million West Indian dollars . . . but why all this "international" interest in our Caribbean?

Three guesses: we are stuck on the globe,—old Columbus is alleged to have discovered that.

SOMEBODY IS AFTER SOMETHING WE HAVE.

World ties

We have to be INTERNATIONAL, and Rojas with Pearl Branch Lennox Pierre (Trinidad) Janet Jagan, Sidney King, Martin Carter (British Guiana) Daphne Campbell, Harry Drayton, Frank Minott (Jamaica) will tell you of their INTERNATIONAL experiences. They are contributing to the peoples fight for world peace, Social Security, Women's cooperation, and youth friendship around the globe. These opportunities are provided by the WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH, THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION and so on, and so on . . .

No bans, no bribery, no Rance!

Oh, what unity, in the great struggle to raise living standards, to provide schools, creches, nurseries, jobs, opportunities for all.

People's Victory

In contrast, supporters of the Yankee organisation (I.C.F.T.U.) have withdrawn the Barbados Workers Union from the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS. They prevent Trinidadians from visiting Jamaica, Jamaicans from visiting Barbados, Guianese from visiting St. Vincent—and then came the bombshell, the historic victory of the Peoples Political Party led by Jagan in British Guiana.

Now there was the cat among the pigeons, Grantley's trade union is panicked, Barbados newspapers scream.

"I.C.F.T.U., probe B.W.U., Funds".

police stalk militant politicians and trade unionists, the iron curtain falls, the people fight back and our enemies are in flight.

London, New York, Stockholm and Washington have the jitters, but the sugar workers, wharf men and all our people gird themselves for the greater struggle, the final battle yet to come, for Peace and National Independence.

'is the University of Hunger the wide waste'

by MARTIN CARTER

is the university of hunger the wide waste
is the pilgrimage of man the long march
the print of hunger wanders in the land
the green tree bends above the long forgotten
the plains of life arise up and fall in spasms
the roofs of men are fused in misery.

They come treading in the hoof marks of the mule
passing the ancient bridge
the grave of pride
the sudden flight
the terror and the time.

They come from the distant village of the flood
passing from middle air to middle earth
in the common hours of nakedness.
Twin bars of hunger mark their metal brows
twin seasons mock them
passing drought and flood

is the dark ones
the half sunken in the land
is they who had no voice in the emptiness
in the unbelievable
in the shadowless.

They come treading on the mud floor of the year
mingling with dark heavy waters
and the sea sound of the eyeless flitting bat
O long is the march of men and long is the life
and wide is the span.

is air dust and the long distance of memory
is the hour of rain when sleepless toads are silent
is broken chimneys smokeless in the wind
is brown trash huts and jagged mounds of iron.

They come in long lines
towards the broad city
is the golden moon like a big coin in the sky
is the floor of bone beneath the floor of flesh
is the beak of sickness breaking on the stone
O long is the march of men and long is the life
and wide is the span
O cold is the cruel wind blowing
O cold is the hoe in the ground.

They come like seabirds
flapping in the wake of a boat
is the torture of sunset in purple bandages
is the powder of fire spread like dust in the sunlight
is the water melodies of white foam on wrinkled sand.

The long streets of night move up and down
baring the thighs of a woman
and the cavern of generation
the beating drum returns and dies away
the cocks of dawn stand up and crow like bugles.

is they who rose early in the morning
watching the moon die in the dawn
is they who heard the shell blow and the iron clang
is they who had no voice in the emptiness
in the unbelievable
in the shadowless
O long is the march of men and long is the life
and wide is the span.

A Year of Achievement

First Congress of W.I. Independence Party

THE NEWLY formed progressive party in Trinidad, the West Indian Independence Party, held its first Party Congress on July 19th in Port-of-Spain.

Party Chairman comrade Lennox Pierre was absent—a delegate to the World Youth Festival—and the chair was taken by Vice-Chairman John Rojas, who is also President of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union.

In his greetings to Congress, Com. Lennox Pierre who was attending the World Youth Festival in Rumania, expressed regret at not being able to be present on such a historic occasion. "It is only the extreme urgency of the need for Peace and Friendship and the promotion of mutual understanding among peoples that could have induced me to be absent from this the First Congress of our Party."

Policy of Unity

The message continued that our Party in its first year of struggle has consistently toed the line in its policy of uniting the forces of the working class, peasants, progressive intellectuals, and even liberal sections of the capitalist class, in our struggle for independence. However, the laurels of a year's achievement must go to only a limited few. The Chairman therefore urged that under the guidance of the Party's leadership, the rank and file members should become more active. "This immediate guidance will of course become less and less necessary as Comrades develop in theory and practice."

Greetings from other kindred organisations were read. The Party received greetings from: The People's Political Party of St. Vincent, the People's Progressive Party of B.G., the Demerara Youth Rally, the People's Educational Organisation of Jamaica, The Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union, the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), the People's United Party of Barbados, Com. Ferdinand Smith, and others.

Last effort

Highlight of the Congress was the Congress Report read by Com. John La Rose, Secretary-General. He stated—

"Our First Party Congress meets at a time when American Imperialism, aiding and abetting the corrupt regime of Syngman Rhee, is obstructing an armistice in Korea; at a time when colonial wars are being waged against the Kenya people, in Malaya and Viet Nam; when what was originally called police emergency action against Mau Mau terrorists in Kenya has turned out to be a full-scale colonial war against the Kenya people.

"This our first Party Congress is also witnessing a determined bid by world reaction, led by American Imperialism, to create a centre of conflict in Germany similar to what still exists in Korea.

Banner raised

"We are meeting at a time when colonial and semi-colonial peoples in varying degrees have raised the standard of revolt here in the West Indies, all over Latin America, Africa, in the Middle and Far East. What we, who are gathered at this Congress, are witnessing in our time is the last-ditch effort of world imperialism to save itself from the dungheap to which it will most certainly be consigned by the peoples of all lands.

However, precisely because of this frenzied last-ditch effort of world imperialism, all the democratic ideals of which the capitalist democracies boasted in the past, are now trampled in the dust and world imperialism has taken the path of fascism and war. But in the name of our Party Congress I would like to repeat these well-known words: 'Peace will be preserved and consolidated if the peoples will take the cause of preserving Peace into their own hands and defend it to the end'. "We have taken the cause of Peace and Independence in our own hands and will defend it till we win."

People's Demands

The report went on to review the year's work of the Party. The Party had agitated locally against every issue that affected the life of the working class, and had carried out a resolute struggle for the immediate demands of the people. At the same time the Party further agitated for the realisation of its ultimate goal—independence.

On the West Indian plane the party had always affirmed its solidarity with the peoples' struggle throughout the Caribbean, and joyfully hailed the recent election victory of the P.P.P., of B.G., as a great victory and another step towards the winning of complete Independence.

The party, since its formation, had always supported, and will continue to support, the struggle of the working class the world over, and especially our own struggle for West Indian Independence.

"Long live the struggle of the working class!" Thus ended the report of the General Secretary.

After a lively and inspiring discussion on the report, the Congress listened to the report of the Treasurer, Com. Quintin O'Connor. The state of the party's finance was outlined and recommendations were made for its improvement.

Constitution

Next stage of the Party's Constitution. This was done, following a few amendments, and the election of officers to the Central Executive Committee followed. Three changes were made on this Committee, together with the addition of another member to the Committee, thus making the total number 17 instead of the former 16.

The Congress then adopted the following resolutions:

(a) Calling on Government to revoke bans on literature and travel in the West Indies.
(b) Condemnation of all colonial wars as a step to deny colonial peoples their right to Independence.
(c) Resolution adopting the Constitution of the Party.
(d) Resolution adopting the Provisional Statement and Fundamental Programme of the Party.
(e) Resolution calling for W.I. Federation with Independence.

The Congress was then brought to an end by the singing of the Internationale.

BILLY STRACHAN IN HOSPITAL AGAIN

BILLY STRACHAN, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), who four months ago underwent a hip operation as a result of a war injury, has had to go back to hospital for a further operation. It is believed that he will be in for a long period, and any friends wishing to cheer him up should write to him at Ward C2, Fulham Hospital, St. Dunstan Road, Hammersmith. Visiting time is from 7 to 7.30 p.m. every day, but only two visiting cards are available, so any friends wishing to visit Billy may contact Joyce Strachan, Maida Vale 9095.

Comrade Strachan recently spent three weeks in Czechoslavakia from which he returned very much enthused by his first visit to a people's democratic country.

GOOD JOURNEY

FAREWELL to Pansy and Lionel Jeffrey and their little one, who have had enough of England's pleasant climate and are returning to the MUDLAND (B.G. to foreigners) to continue the sweet mysteries of life.

They are sailing by the **Colombie** on October 9th, and members of the C.L.C (L.B.) wish Pansy and Jeff, who have both been members of the E.C., all the best on their return home.

Next Issue

NOVEMBER

Special Anniversary Number

Is Foreign Capital a Boon? 'Not on your life'

SAYS

ERIC DESLANDES

who in a previous issue described the luxurious living of foreign capitalists and moneybags in Jamaica.

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the increase in the West Indies. Already it is estimated that some forty per cent of the working population is affected. This is a serious matter, and one which calls for constructive efforts on behalf of the British Administration.

But on the light of events, one is led to the conclusion that the old policy of **laissez faire** is being followed, in the hope that, with the encouragement of increased foreign capital investment in our country, the difficulty may, in conjunction with the Emigration policy, eventually straighten itself out.

But will it?

Their real aim

Surely none of our people seriously believes that foreign capitalists are Big Hearted Uncles with such great affection for us that they, upon hearing of our hardships are falling over themselves in a passionate desire to help?

Not on your life!

Their aim is not to pour money into a country to help its people, but to help themselves by taking a few more millions out. And while the more unfortunates there are seeking the means to earn a living, the cheaper is the labour to exploit the natural resources of the place.

Luxury and squalor

In Jamaica alone more foreign capital has been poured into the Island in the past ten years than ever before in its history. Palatial residences have sprung up amid vast estates whilst business premises and luxury hotels have also appeared. Side by side with these luxuries lies the filth and squalor of the workers' huts and, while millions of pounds of untaxed profits goes abroad to fill the coffers of absentee investors, the government complains that they haven't enough money to implement social services, like old age pensions, unemployment benefits and free health services, etc.

Many of these investors still really believe that West Indians are some sort of poor backward creatures who are perfectly helpless when it comes to conducting their own affairs or governing themselves. So civilised capitalists must do it for them.

Nevertheless, the coloured peoples are not so sure about this "civilisation racket". We don't fall for it any more. We have seen the efforts of these "civilised" persons result in two devastating World wars in a quarter of a century with another in the offing. We know that when the Guv'ors start these scraps the governed peoples will be told to work harder and produce more, so that when victory comes we can enjoy a little more unemployment and high costs of living, to help the Boss to get on his feet.

Waking up

However, one has only to look at British Guiana to see the Great awakening.

West Indians do not want this kind of civilisation. With the advance of Worker's education and our experience gathered by over three hundred years of British rule we have found that we will be far better off under our own government, and that the resources of our land can provide better standards for ALL instead of for the FEW.

But there will not be any improvement in our own position until we have achieved Independence and self-government under our own West Indian Representatives. Then and only then will we be truly, "masters of our own destiny".

WE STAND BY OUR WORD — WE REFUSE TO DIE!

Editorial

EARLY in its publication we announced that "Caribbean News" was here to stay, that we had no intention of packing up after the first issue or two. Now, nearly a year afterwards, WE STAND BY THAT PRONOUNCEMENT.

We are sticking through thick and thin despite the innumerable problems encountered in the publication of a paper of this nature.

The voluntary staff and supporters of the paper are determined to carry on for a very good reason.

The motives which prompted the publication of our monthly could have had no connection with monetary returns.

The need for a paper which would be a weapon in the fight for West Indian Independence was keenly felt a year ago, and that need has been proved by the comments of welcome and appreciation received from the leading peoples' organisations in the West Indies. In fact it is greater now and will be in the future, as the struggle reaches higher levels.

What we shall try to do is to improve the character of the paper and increase its circulation.

But we must inform our readers and supporters that their paper is facing serious difficulties—the most pressing and immediate being finance.

The first result of this financial problem was seen when our last issue had to cover two months (July-August). We have been again forced in this issue to "double-up" (September-October), a practice which we do not find easy to accept.

From the beginning we realised, as we told our readers, that it would be impossible to run the paper on sales only, that we had to have a "fighting fund" of regular support from readers.

And now we have devised a method of regularising our Fighting Fund, of really getting it going. Collecting cards are now being used to enable readers to contribute whatever they can contribute for the paper. These specially printed cards will be in the possession of people who sell the paper, and readers will be helping their paper tremendously if they would give something every month to the FUND.

Every month Comrade Ann Simms will report in the columns of the paper exactly how much has been collected. Readers who want to send their contributions in by post should address letters to Ann Simms, 41 Eresby Rd., N.W.6 Telephone: Maida Vale 6720.

Remember that we can be strong and vigorous in championing the cause of Independence for our homeland only to the extent that our readers actively give their support making "Caribbean News" their paper, and be always on watch to see it through the storms that beset its life.

WE PLEDGE TO DO OUR DUTY, AND IN DOING SO WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Editorial Board.

OFFICE HOURS

MEMBERS and friends of the C.L.C. (London Branch) will be pleased to know that the office at 17 Bishop's Bridge Road, will be open every night from Monday to Friday, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The office is on the third floor. Visitors will be welcome.

If you have any matter to discuss just drop in and do so; or just come in some time to have a look in. Get to know the Caribbean Labour Congress and its work.

SOLIDARITY

AT the beginning of June the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) received an urgent appeal from the Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union. This letter dated 26th May stated, "It is with a deep sense of solemnity and spirit of comradeship that we hereunder communicate our grievance to you seeking your help, wishing at the same time your organisation is enjoying the best of brotherly love and prosperity."

The letter went on to state that the Hon. Eric Matthew Gairy, President of the BMMWU, who is a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Grenada, had had to pay almost 1600 dollars in a slander action brought by an English planter.

The Executive Committee of the C. L. C. (LB) immediately organised an appeal for Gairy. In response to this appeal £5 was sent by the North London District Committee of the Amalgamated Trades Union, who were at the moment involved in a national strike, and the World Federation of Trade Unions immediately sent £200.

Contrast

These actions of solidarity are in direct contrast to the actions of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the British Trades Union Congress, which did not even acknowledge the letters sent them. The W.F.T.U. did not enquire into the political record or the political beliefs of Gairy. This is very different from the experience of some West Indian organisations that have had 'aid' from the I.C.F.T.U., which has always demanded complete acceptance of their policies before 'helping' any union.

It is a known fact that the C.L.C.(LB) is strongly opposed to the stand taken by the GMMWU on certain issues, e.g., Joining the Caribbean Labour Congress. But irrespective of the differences which exist, the C.L.C. (London Branch), would never stand by and see British Imperialism strike down the leader of the organised workers of Grenada.

This support for Gairy does not mean support for the policies pursued or that may be pursued by Gairy. We will continue to campaign for the unity of all West Indian trade unions and for the complete unity of all West Indian people in the struggle against Imperialism.

Bucharest, Festival Report

★

An unforgetable event

says **IRMA HILLAIRE**
delegate of Trinidad
& Tobago Youth Council

THE Fourth World Youth Festival was a ......great and joyful meeting between youths throughout the world. It was unforgettable for most of us, but for me, it was the most thrilling experience of my life. ... ...

One of the deepest impressions of the Festival was the opening ceremony. After a very warm welcome extended to us by over one hundred Rumanian youths, who had come to greet us at the station with song and music, we prepared for the opening of the Festival the following day. The ceremony was tremendous. We marched in our National costumes around the monstrous 23rd August Stadium, built especially for the Festival. Over 80,000 people from the stadium cheered us with applause and flowers. The spirit of friendship and solidarity animated us, as we marched with the English, French, Africans and people from the most remote countries of the world, about whom we had only read. ...

Peace and Friendship

White doves fluttered up from the stadium carrying messages far and wide that the Festival had begun. A great choir of 20,000 Rumanian youth thrilled us with various songs of youth. As an insight to the wonderful programmes that would follow, we saw a mass sports demonstration presented by Rumanian youth. Towards the end of this programme, they grouped their bodies into the words "peace and friendship" translated into several languages, and into the emblem of the Festival.

It was difficult to choose from the rich and varied programme presented to us each day, which included several national shows, competitions for the best dances and plays, exhibitions, contests for young singers, musicians and painters. Inter delegation meetings were arranged. It was interesting to meet young people of different creeds, religions and political convictions with whom we were able to hold friendly discussions. I realized from these delegation meetings how cruel war is, as it was proven here that the world youth have nothing but fraternal love for each other.

Smiling Faces

I could never forget the way these hospitable Rumanian people received us when we walked the streets, Young and old greeted us with love, peace and friendship.

We visited the city. Lofty white buildings gleamed in the bright sun, libraries, parks and art galleries adorned the streets everywhere. Happy smiling Rumanians surrounded us, attracted by our colour, and embraced us showing their appreciation and love for the coloured race. Almost all of them spoke two or three foreign languages. They conversed with us in either French, Spanish or German and were ever so eager to find out all details about the countries from which we came. These were the great majority and they were sons and daughters of working class people. They were healthy, strong, and filled with enthusiasm and confidence of a bright future. Their life was enriched by good educational facilities and various forms of recreation.

In most of the parks there were open air theatres, lakes where swimming and boating could be enjoyed and numerous bookshops. How happy were these people whose creative ability was encouraged, whose talents were given opportunity to develop and poured out in so many forms. Their lives are not scourged by snobbery or prejudices. Doctors, Lawyers and the working class people all live and work together as one family.

Contrast

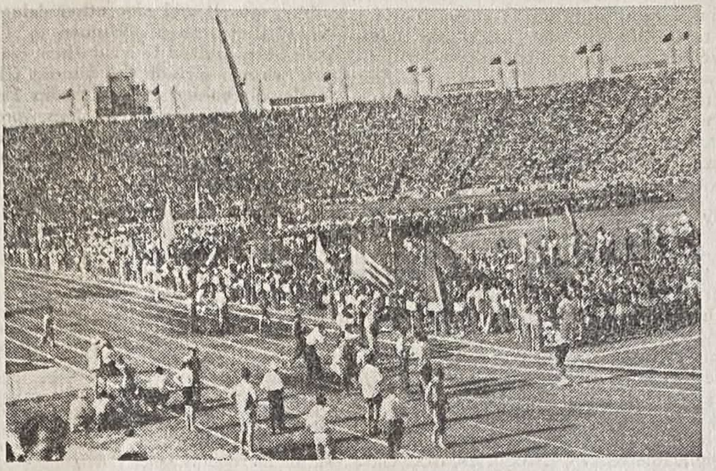
I was forced to compare these conditions with those prevailing in the West Indies, and I thought how frustrating it really is for our youths. How limited are the social, educational and recreational facilities provided us. Our youth who are so full of creative capacity, and equally enthusiastic, are daunted by poverty, anguish of war and unemployment.

The memory of the Festival will be a great incentive to our colonial youth in our fight for a better future, and especially to the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council which is now in the process of reorganization to provide better facilities for the underprivileged youth of our Colony.

continued at foot of next column

Friendship with the Koreans

The Fourth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship brought together over 30,000 young people from 111 countries, including 111 from the West Indies. These young people showed to the World that in practice mankind can live in peace, given the will to do so, representing as they did all political, religious, creeds and colours having in common a striving for friendship. Below is a scene from the opening ceremony.



The Black Man's Reception in a new world

by Carlton Bayley

THE fourth world youth festival held in Bucharest served as a great teacher to me, a youth of an oppressed colonial territory, in the social, economic and cultural ways. We learned many things from the Festival, and made many friends.

The thing that impressed me most at the Festival was the Rumanian's approach to a black man, hospitable and sweet. Not as if he were an inferior being or savage; not with frowning looks or hateful eyes; not with shameful steps; not with the approach of brutish fascism, as experienced to many of us in England America and South Africa; but a humanitarian approach that only could be displayed by nations which stand for peace and friendship the world over.

I, as a black man, was never happy living in a society where the majority was white, until I went to Bucharest. It was as though I were living in a society where all the people were of the same pigment as my own. I never had a scornful look during my stay in Rumania. As a matter of fact, the people of Rumania wear an expression of freedom and happiness. The facial expressions of the people of Rumania are enough to make one realize how essential and happy life is meant to be. In the tramway, in stores, in restaurants, the perenitsa ring, it was the same—love, human treatment, and the slogan of the youth "Pace si Prietenie" (Peace and Friendship).

The Rumanian people though happy, are determined to build higher stages of Socialism in their country and are working hard to attain it.

HOSPITALITY

The Festival taught us not only about the Rumanian people, for there were thousands of delegates from other lands, each having something to say and do. We learned collectively as we discussed various problems with our brothers and sisters from different countries.

Although there is plenty to say about the Festival and Bucharest, I must not forget to mention the hospitality shown to us in other socialist lands such as the German Democratic Republic, Peoples' Hungary and Czechoslavakia; and last, but not least, the Soviet ship "Beloostrov" that took us from the Surrey Docks to East Germany. It was on the "Beloostrov" that many black delegates received the treatment as real human beings, and it was a testimonial of what we should expect on our way to the Festival from the Peoples' Democracies. And sure enough, the testimonial was true. As we arrived at these socialist countries, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslavakia, we received the same high level hospitality.

This fourth world Youth Festival held in Bucharest, August 1953, will live long in my memory. It strengthens the chain of unbreakable friendship that binds the youth of oppressed colonial territories and those of other countries.

The 'virtues' of Arbitration

Bauxite workers' claim

From Dudley Mitchell
Kingstown, 11th. August

A strong call for the return of Slave Labour to this Colony in order to induce Foreign Capitalists to "invest" and "assist" in Industrial development was made here recently by Don Douglas Judah and Mr. Leslie Ashenheim, representing the Bauxite Companies in the current wage dispute arbitration, involving Alumina (Jamaica) Co. Ltd., and its 700 employees, who were represented by the National Workers' Union.

The pro-slave-labour advocates were addressing the arbitrator, Mr. C. G. Honeyman, a Colonial Office labour official, who was sent here by the British Ministry of Labour. The case for the workers was presented by Mr. N. W. Manley, Q.C., Leader of the once militant Peoples' National Party and legal adviser of the affiliated National Workers' Union. Formally the Union had claimed a flat rate of 4/- per hour for unskilled and 10/- for skilled workers. At present the Company pays a minium hour-wage of 1/4 to a maximum of 3/10½, applicable to two categories, first class electricians and first class excavators.

COMPROMISE

Manley's argument before the arbitrator, however, amounted to a compromise between the Bauxite plunderers and the Union, without the workers consent. After days of hollow talk, quoting of statistics, showing how American and Canadian workers in the same industry were paid ten times the wage of the Jamaicans, and how these companies were especially ruthless in the exploitation of Colonial workers, Manley, the working class splitter, completely exposed himself and his Union as he shamelessly reduced the original 10/- demand for skilled workmen to 6/5d.

In his address Manley showed the wage differentials between Jamaica and Canada and the United States. He told the arbitrator that the union was very young and could not afford Strike Pay so he was prepared to conduct the negotiation on a compromise basis. Manley went on to point out how much it would cost a worker per hour to exist normally in Jamaica. His conclusion was that it would take at least 4/- which the Union was claiming.

EMPLOYERS' PIFFLE

Replying for the Employers, Douglas Judah, "Farmers" Party Treasurer, who has a long record of anti-Labour activities in this country, "implored" the Colonial Office Agent, Honeyman, to reject the union's demand, which, he said would "hamper" the island's industrial development, and at the same time create a bad precedent for Labour relations. Also one of Kingston's Criminal Lawyers, Judah claimed that "ability to pay" did not apply to this particular Company. It was his opinion that claims were "fantastic" and would lead to chaos.

His fellow-traveller, Leslie Ashenhiem, was more brazen in his condemnation of the 700 workers involved, when he said that paying an ordinary common labourer 4/- per hour would not only ruin the Company, but ruin the workers themselves who would become lazy and proud beyond the control of the employers.

HOT BARRAGE

At a lecture held at the Local Institute, Honeyman tried to show the Jamaican public the "virtues" of arbitration. He was, however, prevented from putting it over as he had expected. As a barrage of working class questions took him from the floor he suddenly cut his talk short by announcing "no more questions".

Now the arbitration is over and the workers and the entire Jamaican people are looking forward, with heavy hearts, to what this award will mean to them.

In the meanwhile it is predicted in official circles that the Honeyman "award" will be as scandalous, if not worse than the notorious Gleaner and similar awards.

Want to
SING, DANCE, ACT?
Join the
WEST INDIES FESTIVAL GROUP
17 Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN PEOPLE'S RUMANIA

by

JANET JAGAN

Secretary of P.P.P. and Deputy Speaker,
British Guiana House of Assembly

ON the invitation of the Women's Democratic Federation of the Rumania People's Republic, myself and nine other delegates to the World Congress of Women in Copenhagen have been invited to visit their country. The nine women include the famous Elisa Branco of Brazil, holder of the Stalin Peace award for her outstanding work, two women leaders of Cuba, two from Egypt, two from Switzerland and two from the British West Indies.

Today we visited a tobacco factory producing 650,000 cigarettes daily and employing some 800 workers, the majority being women. There I saw the people at work in large airy rooms with special ventilation. The basic wages are established by the government in consultation with the workers through their trade unions. Every worker, however, can receive wages far above the basic (which is quite adequate) depending on the quality and quantity of his production. There are canteens on the compound where wholesome lunches can be purchased at extremely low prices.

I visited a lovely creche and a day nursery where mothers leave their children while working. For the little babies there were large bright rooms equipped with modern baby cots and special baths; for the tiny tots there were play rooms with small furniture and for the slightly older children, there were rooms with toys, a marionette stage and bathrooms with wash basins at a convenient height.

Greetings to B.G.

Also for the workers of the same factory there was a small well equipped hospital, which is just for workers who are not very sick, a modern dental surgery providing free dentistry of all types for all the workers aside from the medical clinic.

The tobacco factory workers of Bucharest sent their warm greetings to the tobacco workers of British Guiana and expressed their desire that the bounds of friendship be strengthened getween all workers in the struggle for world peace.

Later in the day a Secretary of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Rumanian People's Republic interviewed us and gave full answers to many questions asked. She pointed out that there was a fundamental difference in the functions of trade unions existing in capitalist countries and those in the socialist countries. In the capitalist countries the unions were part of the class struggle of the workers seeking better working conditions and wages from their employers. In the new democracies, the trade unions had a different function, as the class struggle no longer existed, and since it was no longer necessary for workers to force better wages from their employers, production was socialised.

Here, therefore, the trade unions had the job of improving the social benefits for workers such as medical care, creches, cultural activities. Further they sought to increase production in order to fulfill the country's five year plan which would benefit all workers and would also assist in lowering prices. The unions also have the task of seeing that all the workers receive all the benefits granted to them constitutionally. One of the most important functions of the trade unions is to participate in the negotiations for "collective contracts" which is the contract concerning production and social benefits drawn up between the factory and the workers.

Social Insurance

The Central Council of Trades Unions takes care of the huge grant by the Government for social insurance. It also arranges for trade union schools and various forms of workers education, and arranges for rest resorts for workers when they receive their annual holiday with pay. There is not space to mention all the benefits workers in Rumania receive as compared to our workers, but I would mention that for overtime (more than 8 hours of work per day) a worker receives time ond one-half for the first two hours and double time for overtime over the first two hours. Workers are pensioned at the age of 50 for women and 55 years for men.

There are many lessons we can learn from the great strides made forward by the new democracies. They are building a new way of life and no amount of slander by the press can hinder their progress. They tell us of the "Iron Curtain". In my travels I have encountered only one set of "Iron Curtains" and those were in the British Caribbean.

Rhythmic Hips

ON Saturday evening —the 9th September, members and friends of the C.L.C. danced again at the Royal Hotel to the music of Ivor Hunt's band.

After a long interval in the usual series of dances sponsored by the C.L.C., all present seemed happy to renew acquaintances.

Special feature of the evening was the singing of calypsos by the delegates to the World Youth Festival held in Bucharest during August. This group, still in the Festival spirit, had the crowd responding gleefully. All around, hips moved in smooth rhythmic style like ripples of the Caribbean lapping the island beaches in answer to soft zephyrs.

Carlton Bayley, of British Guiana, sang a calypso, one of his own compositions, on the recent B.G. elections.

Grand West Indian
DANCE
Saturday, 14th. November, 7-30—11-30
ROYAL HOTEL
Woburn Place, W.C.I
Star Guest Artist
LORD BEGINNER

SUGAR STRIKE

from page 1

There is presently a deadlock in the negotiations as the Sugar Producers are unwilling to meet on the terms put forward by the Union.

Other workers have struck in support of the sugar workers. These include Post Office workers, public works and other Government employees, dock and sawmill workers.

The sugar workers are prepared to hold out until the issues are settled. The question of union recognition has been fought for several years, but the Sugar Producers have refused to recognise the G.I.W.U., preferring to deal with the Manpower Citizens Association Union, which has for years lost the confidence of the workers in the industry.

A Bill coming before the House of Assembly today with every chance of being approved would recognise the union having the majority of members in the industry.

IN the Guiana House of Assembly, the Hon. Sydney King, Minister in the Government led a successful attack against a proposal to send delegates to meet the Queen in Jamaica. The opposition, he declared, in making their plea "displayed the intellect of grovelling worms".

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BRITISH GUIANA
SPECIAL ISSUE

AND ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

November ★ 1953

CARIBBEAN
NEWS 6d.

JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE

Deposed Premier: Western Democracy Is On Trial

By DR. CHEDDI JAGAN

I WANT to answer in this article some of the charges made against the Government of British Guiana, and points in the British Government's White Paper.

We are accused in the White Paper of hindering the good government of the colony and of fomenting strikes for political ends.

(We had established a trade union by legal action. For four years our union had tried to get recognition, but for years the employers did not meet this union. Since 1949 I had been proposing in the Legislative Council the Bill we introduced. The Bill is uncontroversial. It has been taken out of the American Statute Book of Roosevelt's era. Of course Roosevelt is a " Communist " now.

From 1949 we were asking the sugar employers for recognition. What was left for us to do? In our election manifesto we told the people: when you put us in power we shall introduce legislation to give your trade union power to bargain with the employers. This is the "violence" and the "plot" in British Guiana.

The Governor was opposed to it, all the officials in the cabinet were prepared to vote against it, the State Council was prepared to vote against. We were prepared to ask the Governor to use his constitutional power in case the Upper House delayed the Bill.

The Manpower Citizens' Association has, they say, a large following, and our union a small following only. But is is significant that our union closed down all sugar estates for a strike a few weeks ago.

Another charge: Removal of the ban on entry of West Indian communists. I was banned from entering Trinidad, my friends were banned from British Guiana. When we were coming to London, Trinidad and Barbados told us that we would not be allowed to pass through their airports.

A few months back, Richard Hart, Quintin O'Connor, La Rose, Ferdinand Smith, Joshua and I met in Barbados. Richard Hart was not allowed to pass through Trinidad, and another comrade was told that he would not be allowed to land in Barbados. They said that we met in order to conspire.

When we went to Barbados, Smith was to put a proposition to Grantley Adams.

In the West Indies the Labour Movement was divided officially, some unions joining the International

★ **continued on Back Page**

JAMAICANS SUPPORT B.G. DESPITE BUSTAMANTE

From D. MITCHELL, Kingston, Jamaica

HEADED by the People's Educational Organisation, the Caribbean Labour Congress, the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and the Jamaica Youth Movement, a mass campaign of solidarity with the people of British Guiana against the imperialist plot to overthrow the democratic Government of that colony, is spreading all over the country like wild-fire.

A broad National Committee in defence of the rights of the Guianese people and their democratic organisations was set up here on October 10th, with headquarters at 64, Barry Street.

Already several protest meetings have been held with thousands of working people attending and unanimously passing resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the British troops and warships from Guiana and the immediate return of the people's hard-won constitution to them.

The People's Educational Organisation is currently engaged in drafting a petition which will be widely signed and forwarded to the Colonial Office. Other plans include sending a delegation to the British Governor here, Sir Hugh Foot, asking him to convey the Jamaican people's indignation to the Colonial Office in London.

In an after-dinner speech at a function held here recently, the Hon. William Alexander Bustamante, Chief Minister in the local Government, and top 'boss" of the Union named after him (Bustamante Industrial Trade Union) apparently dizzy with the lot of champagne he consumed expressed full support for the fascist actions of the imperialist forces in B.G. The British puppet "Chief" Minister was quoted in the "Daily Gleaner" as saying the people of British Guiana did not want self-Government. They wanted to establish a Communist State (parroting the Colonial Office).

This was soon to be followed by the "morally re-armed" Frank Hill in his weekly little rag called "The Masses". Mr. Hill, who while being an officer of the Trade Union Congress was successfully prosecuted for breach of the Minimum Wage Law, said: Jagan was playing with fire and that the P.P.P. had given away the People's Constitution. His brother Ken has not yet made a pronouncement, although he has been asked to serve on the Defence Committee.

Despite the reactionary pronouncement of these would-be leaders, however, the progressive forces are holding huge protest meetings and calling upon the working people to stand firm with the Guianese people in their struggles against fascism and for democracy to be restored

★ *EDITORIAL* ★

This Gunboat Democracy

BRITAIN'S repressive arm has been used to dismiss the Guianese people's legally elected Government, suspend the Constitution granted only six months previously, and set up a one-man dictatorship carrying out arbitrary arrests of the people's leaders, searching their homes, confiscating their literature and prohibiting strikes in certain industries.

All this be it noted has been done allegedly in the name of law and order, of good government, and to prevent the Constitution from being 'destroyed' by the People's Progressive Party.

In the name of democracy the few democratic rights of the people have been taken away. The right to vote has been overrun, for that is the essence of the dismissal of the ministers and prorogation of the Assembly.

The charges laid against the P.P.P. are so vague and weak that even Mr. James Griffiths, former Colonial Secretary, in the House of Commons debate was able to say that Lyttelton seemed to be 'scraping the barrel'. Another M.P., Mr. Harold Davies, wrote "The British Parliament after being presented with a White Paper full of half-truths, generalisations with no real evidence, and a plethora of turgid deductions debated away the **freedom of choice** of a Colonial people".

In fact, the charges are merely the expressions of the prejudices and dislikes of the Tory Government and local big business interests of Guiana.

So they step in and put an end to it under cover of ominous charges and play upon the overused expression 'Communist dominated'. Charges are made of attempting to subvert the Constitution and set up a 'totalitarian' Communist state, fomenting racial hatred and strikes, undermining the economy and loyalty of the police, etc.

When one examines these charges however as contained in the White Paper and in Lyttelton's 'more detailed' explanations in the Commons debate, they are found to be woefully lacking in specific details of times, places, persons and acts.

The colonial officials and press were trying to discredit the P.P.P. after the elections by telling the people that the Party now had complete power to carry out its programme and if it did not do so then the blame would have been laid squarely on the Party. All the while the Governor and officials were sabotaging their efforts to carry out this programme.

The intention of the constitution makers was to create the illusion that the Governor would withdraw from everyday political life and allow the local people to run their affairs. But this could only be done on the assumption that men like Bustamante of Jamaica and Gomes of Trinidad could be found in British Guiana to 'work' the Constitution the way Big Business wanted it.

When it was found that this subtle policy was in danger of exposure to the people by the constant sabotage of the efforts of their elected representatives, the Tory government stepped in with troops and warships, and as an afterthought brought out the crude and hoary 'justifications' for its actions taken on behalf of the sugar producers and other British, U.S. and Canadian moneyed interests.

It seems obvious that there was some form of American pressure behind the move, and when Lyttelton, at the Tory Party conference, at Margate, gave an assurance to their "friends" that Britain would never tolerate a 'Communist State' in the British Commonwealth, it is clear who these "friends" are.

The role of the Labour Party and T.U.C. leadership has been shameful. For when local trade union branches, trades councils and Labour Party ward branches were so eager to take up strongly the defence of democracy in Guiana, the Labour leaders in the commons debate came out agreeing with the Tories in all respects but the method used in suspending the Constitution. They thought it should have been done more 'subtly'.

It is significant, however, that the 'Left' M.P.s were not recognised by the Speaker in the debate. But despite the 'wet-blanket' treatment of Griffiths and Attlee and the T.U.C. right-wingers, the feeling nevertheless remains strong among the rank and file in the British Labour Movement.

In one blow the British rulers have torn aside the smoke-screen of promises and assurances of step-by-step progress to independence. They have shown that they will only allow 'advances' if the local people in the government are of the type prepared to carry out the wishes of the big business tycoons.

The aim is to 'withdraw' the Governor from politics, and allow the safe yes-men to carry out the imperialist policy. But as we have seen in Guiana, if the people elect an honest Government that tries to implement its programme of working people's rights, then all pretences of constitutional advance to self-government are dropped and we see exposed the naked policy of imperialism that seeks to hang on to the backs of the colonial people.

The British imperialist government intends British Guiana to serve as a warning to all the other territories in the Empire—witness Nkrumah's action in suspending two trade union Ministers just a few days afterwards—and particularly to places like Trinidad and Jamaica where strong new movements like that of the P.P.P. in B.G. are now developing.

But will these die-hards ever learn? Janet Jagan has written "The present situation has only succeeded in making the picture of imperialism sharper in the minds of the masses who now see more clearly than a hundred lectures could tell what British colonialism means".

The Tory Government hopes that public opinion in Britain will become reconciled with the steps taken, and that after an interim period—during which action might be taken against the P.P.P.—a revised and restricted Constitution would be set up to be 'worked' by well-groomed and loyal representatives of the 'people' (Big Business).

But let all who cherish democracy see to it that the Guianese people have the right to elect their representatives freely and the right to improve their conditions constitutionally.

Let particularly the people and movements of the other territories of the West Indies rally to the defence of their brothers and sisters of Guiana and make their protests known.

Demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from British Guiana, the restoration of the constitutionally elected Government of the people, and the release of their arrested leaders.

Send contributions to the Guiana Defence Fund, 16, Soho Square, London, W.1.

Our First Birthday

THIS is the first anniversary of "**Caribbean News**". Reflected in its pages over the past year were the struggles of the West Indian people for democratic rights and independence, against suppression and injustice.

We have been faithful to our pledge to be a militant champion of our people in their efforts to secure a better life.

That we have stood by our cause can be seen by the bans against this paper in the West Indies by colonial Governors. It is an indication of the fear with which the colonial authorities regard the truth being made known to the people.

Even those who may not agree entirely with everything in this paper must wonder why the Colonial Office seeks to prohibit views other than its own.

This is the totalitarian control which is experienced in the name of maintaining 'democratic institutions'. What is this 'democracy' that can only be maintained by stamping out progressive views and when even this fails, by the use of troops and warships as in the case of British Guiana?

It is a fitting expression of our principles that this first anniversary should find us in our biggest campaign yet in support of the democratic rights of the Guianese people.

Bigger and bigger efforts are needed in this campaign if it is to have any chance of success.

In the past months, "**Caribbean News**" and the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) have been continually engaged in exposing the injustices, the frame-ups and terror against West Indian leaders, the denial of civil liberties, etc.

But now the crime against British Guiana presents an immeasurably greater task to this paper and its supporters—to all West Indians, at home and in Britain. The struggle for independence and democracy will not grow any easier but will require more and more effort.

Let us make sure then that when we celebrate our next anniversary we can look back as we do today with a year behind us of good service to the cause of West Indian freedom, only on a much higher level.

This calls for a bigger circulation, which only our readers can help achieve, by taking extra copies and selling them to their friends.

The paper's Fighting Fund has started quite well, but will need increasing contributions to give the paper the strength it needs.

There are many who have been so incensed by Lyttelton's outrage against Guiana that they feel spurred on to do something about it.

Our best advice to readers who want to help is to join the Carabbean Labour Congress (London Branch), and play their part in the campaign for the defence of Guiana in this organisation which has been in the forefront of the Guiana struggle in Britain. Give strength to the fight by strengthening the membership of the C.L.C. (L.B.).

Membership Form on Back Page.

HOW JAMAICA'S SUGAR WORKERS 'LIVE'

by H. G. SINCLAIR

THE average wage for agricultural workers in Jamaica's sugar industry is 6s. 6d. a day for women and 9s. 6d. a day for men — that is, for Grade 'A' workers. Rates for Grades 'B' and 'C' are still lower.

Industrial workers only get sick leave at half pay, while agricultural workers get no paid sick leave at all.

Forty-five thousand workers are employed during the peak period (crop season, roughly 4½ months), and 15,000 during off-peak season. This figure includes both field and factory workers. There is no alternative employment for the 30,000 out of work during the off-peak season and no unemployment benefit whatsoever. Since these figures were taken, some farms have been mechanised, which reduces the figure of 45,000 employed.

Even during the crop season, work is often short—sometimes only three days' work per week.

In spite of the fact that the British Government has granted 5/- per ton of sugar for social welfare, this money is mainly spent on factory and farm holdings to building comfortable houses for factory managers and staff, while the workers are living in filth and squalor to the extent of a worker and his family of nine or more living in one room, 8 feet x 9 feet, with no sanitation.

These rooms are in barracks, with no piped water, and cooking outside. The water supply is from the canals into which goes all the refuse. ,

These conditions apply to factory workers. For agricultural workers: during the crop season as many as 15-20 and more are crowded in rooms 8 feet x 10 feet (adult single men).

Reports have been made many times and the Government Officer in charge (local officer) checked on the reports, but was forbidden to take any further steps because of pressure from above.

There is no insurance whatsoever for workers injured in factories, no workmen's compensation. 250 working days are needed before a worker is entitled to two weeks' leave.

Treatment in hospital is free, with workers receiving half-pay during their stay there, but nothing at all after they leave the hospital, even if they are not fit for work.

Medical treatment outside hospitals, even by Company doctors, must be paid for. Many estates employ no doctors at all. There are no safety precautions in the factories, resulting in frequent accidents.

Tate & Lyle employ Government doctors on a part-time basis, and workers are pushed out of hospitals before they are properly cured to save the Company's money.

If workers can afford to go to an independent doctor after an accident, and to employ a good solicitor, they can sue the company for doctor's bills and damages, but are blacklisted by that company and subsequently by the whole industry. The sugar industry has often refused to employ ex-service men returning from England, because of their advanced political ideas.

Two unions are recognised, the B.I.T.U. and the T.U.C. The former has support from the sugar owners, and is regarded as a Company Union. It has the majority. Since the split in the T.U.C. the J.F.T.U. has been formed. Companies collect dues both for B.I.T.U. and T.U.C.

At a recent strike in New Yarmouth Factory—where industrial workers received £9 during the crop season, but only £3 10s. after the season—the workers called on B.I.T.U. to negotiate for higher wages, but the Union did not do anything. When the machines had been dismantled, they called a strike (unofficial) for two weeks, then returned to work pending negotiations. No report so far about the outcome of these negotiations.

Unions are blanket unions for all the workers on the estate, industrial and agricultural.

J.F.T.U. was newly formed after the split within the T.U.C., and is bringing back the principle of workers' control into the movement. Workers joining J.F.T.U. are being intimidated.

Next year there will be a poll in the individual factories of the sugar industry, by secret ballot. The Union winning the majority has sole bargaining rights on that particular estate, but the other unions still have minority rights.

IT IS OUR JOB TO STOP THIS

says D. N. Pritt, Q.C.

THE colonies have been told: "Don't riot; stay inside the Empire, you will get all the advance you need, peacefully." But British Guiana has shown what happens when the colonial people bump up against profits.

It is not a long story. The Constitution was granted only on 1st April this year. It gave British Guiana a chamber of elected representatives, plus a council of nominated members, like the House of Lords. The People's Progressive Party won 18 seats out of 24 in the election, formed the Government and governed well, without disorder.

Extracts from a speech delivered by Mr. Pritt on October 9 at the Holborn Hall, London.

It was not a very left-wing Government, but they were even less to the taste of the sugar barons than the Labour Government was here in Britain in 1945.

They demanded amendments to the Constitution even before the election, they wanted to remove the State Council. Would you not want to remove the House of Lords? They wanted to cut the reserve power of the Governor. They wanted an elected instead of an appointed Speaker. Would you not want all this? Is this Communist?

They wanted the appointed members removed from the House of Assembly (I would want them further away than that), wanted the right to self-determination, as I want it for Gt. Britain. Great fear of a single party Government was voiced. Have we not got it?

They wanted recognition of Trade Unions. Recognition of trade unions for badly sweated, unorganised people is a very fine thing, except for the bosses.

They negotiated a long time, then there was a strike, but the Government supported the strikers. You did not know it was the duty of a Government to be against strikes? They thought they should support the people who elected them; is that a communist plot? During the strike there was never any excuse for the police to use violence. Is that wicked? They even tried to get legislation passed quickly!

We should remember the sequence of events before the Constitution was suspended.—A special meeting of the Privy Council was held at Balmoral. We don't know what went on there, we are only the people of a democracy who pay for it. "The Times" said it was very relieved to know that no troops were going; it had heard some story of possible disturbances, but not a word of a communist plot; there **might** be disturbances.

On the following day "The Times" mentioned rumours of revocation of the Constitution. A Colonial Office statement was issued: they claimed to hold evidence of intrigues of Communists and their associates to strangle the welfare (is there any?) of British Guiana and the good administration.

If these intrigues were to continue, an attempt might be made to set up a Communist state. In view of the latest developments the Government was sending our forces "to preserve the peace."

I have never seen armed men going to foreign countries except "to preserve peace"; but somebody always gets killed.

The old cry of communism is used to destroy everything that matters, trade unions, progressive movements. The Communists are not the only people who want improvements. If all the people who want improvement are shot down, there will be no Empire left in three years. The Colonial Office declared: "certain leaders had links with the international communist movement, but nevertheless no attempt had been made to prevent Ministers from taking power.

But these leaders were "strengthening their links with Moscow." Is it that if any Minister of any British country visits a country behind the "Iron Curtain", that territory should then be invaded by troops? Dr. Jagan, they added, had broadcast that he was an admirer of the Soviet Union, China, and the Peoples' Democracies, that Socialism had to come, and that it would evolve into Communism. The Youth League had been affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The State Council was worried about the strike.

The P.P.P. was "organised in cells"! And the worst: merchants were reducing their imports, no further capital would be invested, this would lead to unemployment!

Then the troops arrived. Still no disorder, no new allegation against the Jagans, but an appeal by the Jagans to the people to remain firm. "The Times" says if the Government goes on like that, sympathies will be transferred to the P.P.P. People in B.G. remain calm. The P.P.P. appeals: "If your leaders are arrested, other leaders will spring up. If martial law is proclaimed stay at home, be quiet and peaceful. Don't be provoked, the struggle for a better life goes on."

Then, with nothing new to justify it, comes a statement from the Colonial Office: the Constitution has been suspended to prevent Communist subversion of the Government and a dangerous crisis in the economic affairs; a state of emergency has been declared, Ministers dismissed; a Commission is to be sent out.

"The Government", the statement declared, "has shown by their acts and speeches that they want Communism. The British Government is quite satisfied that the elected Government of B.G. is under a communist clique." But they did not know this two days' before, and nothing new happened since then. "They want to turn B.G. into a totalitarian state, subject to Moscow." So totalitarian that it is subordinate to somebody else-

"A dangerous platform for extending Communism in the Western Hemisphere". That means, if workers in the other islands want trade unions, they will get warships.

Here are some other accusations:—

"Provoked stoppage of work". (They supported a justified strike, you see). "Strikes for political purposes only, without regard for the welfare of workers." "Undermining the loyalty of the police." "Attempts to gain their political ends by legislation." "Started a political youth league" "Revising school text books." "Wanting an educational system without the church." (which France had since her revolution).

The statement ended "The Government will hasten to obey the recommendation of the International Bank."

All this arose between Wednesday and Friday, and obviously because the U.S.A. wanted it. "Not willing to allow a Communist state within the Commonwealth," is how the Colonial Office puts it.

It is our job to stop this in Gt. Britain. It is not only the fate of British Guiana. You always try these things out on the little fellow. British Guiana is a small colony. If they can get away with it, they will use the same methods on all other colonies. In the end there will be no British troops left in this country.

In stopping this we need solidarity not only in this country, but with the Indian people, the colonial peoples, and the whole labour movement including the Labour Party.

New, peaceful development of our Commonwealth, enough to eat, enough doctors for everybody. A march to freedom of the Empire and of ourselves. That is what we need.

BILLY'S CORNER

WHEN Mr. Oliver Lyttleton, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, Struck at Guiana with marine and warships, he underestimated the structure and solidarity of the P.P.P. led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

Jagan, Burnham, King and colleagues have emerged as strong contenders for the leadership of all colonials suffering under the British iron-rule—this should be a warning to Uncle Sam-

Sugar, the traditional King in the Caribbean, has been jostled in the post war era by Bauxite—a Kankee preserve.

. . . Kaiser Bauxite, Demarara Bauxite, are all disguises for U.S. dollar investment in British colonies, and this pressure irks John Bull. Incidentally there's still plenty of molasses left in the sugar world; last month **STE MADELINE SUGAR** and **CARONI** reported huge profits in Trinidad.

Enter Jagan, supported by 70,000 voters in B.G. who sees our great wealth being shipped to London, New York and Washington. His programme unites Indian, Negro and others in B.G., and he supports West Indian Federation and Self-Government NOW.

To this crime he adds a worse one, solidarity with the peoples of Kenya and Malaya. The result we know today, British armed troops searing the Guianese soil, AND MORE,

> ". . . the anxieties of the United States Government played a not inconsiderable part in Britain's decision to send troops to British Guiana." **"Daily Mail"**, 8.10.53.

Colonial people everywhere look with pride to the West Indies.

There are many more incorruptable "Jagans" throughout the Caribbean. Windbags, Bustamante, Manley, Gomes are fading into decadence and the real struggle for Independence marches on.

* * * *

IN THE GUIANA DEBATE

> "We have seen shining examples of how to work a limited constitution. We have seen it in the Gold Coast, in Barbados and elsewhere."—
>
> Rt. Hon. C. R. ATTLEE
> (House of Commons, 22.10.53.)

Dr. Ian Fraser reporting on his visit to the Gold Coast at the request of the British Medical Association, states in the British Medical Journal that there is a shortage in all branches of the Medical Service.

At the moment, he reports, there are three surgeons for the population of 4,500,000 people, one gynaecologist, no eye specialist, no ear, nose and throat specialist, no dermatologist, no Tuberculosis specialist, no anaestetist, etc.

Any wonder Oliver Lyttelton could smirk,

> "We (Dr. Nkrumah) have been able to work together, as I think the House knows, for the constitutional advance of their countries, and they have said so publicly on more than one occasion."

* * * *

There are traitors in our camp.

"We profoundly regret the loss by the people of British Guiana of their new Constitution, which could and should have opened up a new era for their country."

"We deplore the conduct of the leaders of the People's Progressive Party which provoked and occasioned that loss."—PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY, **JAMAICA.**

London's Colonial dictator has been flooded by protests from Labour M.P.s, Labour Parties, Trades Councils, Trade Union Branches, the League of Coloured Peoples, the National Executive of the Fire Brigades' Union, the South African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, the Peoples' Political Party (St. Vincent), the West Indian Independence Party (Trinidad), the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the Caribbean Labour Congress among many others.

And here is this disemboweled junta bossed by Manley of Jamaica, speaking of "the betrayal of the cause of the coloured people the world over."

Who betrayed Malaya?
Who betrayed Kenya?

No Party led by Manley in Jamaica or his like has even now the overwhelming support that the P.P.P. leaders had in April, 1953, winning 18 of 24 elected seats at a General Election.

West Indians, take warning! Manley exposed himself when he led the split in Jamaica's People's National Party in March, 1953.

The T.U.C. was disinherited and only the sugar barons gained at the expense of trade union disunity.

Solidarity was imminent for the first time since prewar 1938, especially in sugar; then Manley struck!

In British Guiana sugar barons and other foreign imperialists closed ranks against the highly respected and overwhelmingly popular P.P.P. The line-up is clear. The true patriots stand out under a People's banner, facing an aggressive enemy, armed with battle cruiser, aircraft carrier and cold steel. The people will win, against heavy odds, and when the reckoning is come, there will be just rewards for our Judases!

* * * *

One night young Doctrove, a son of the aged itinerant barber, fell from the roof of his veranda in a rickety quarter of down town Roseau.

He was taken to the Roseau Hospital to die within 24 hours.

Whose crime?

The X-ray machine at the **old** hospital is still out of order, badly in need of repairs.

No doctor could spare the time from the Club bar on a week-end bridge and whisky party to attend to this young Dominican.

Result on Sunday morning: "Death from a broken neck."

This is the sort of administration that "H.M.S. Superb", "Bigbury Bay" and "Burghead Bay" have come to the Caribbean to conceal and perpetuate.

READ FOR YOURSELF AND JUDGE –

Was This Programme 'Totalitarian'?

The P.P.P. has been accused of being an irresponsible party, of being intent only on creating economic chaos, stirring up labour disturbances and instituting a "totalitarian" state. We publish below representative extracts from the Party's Policy Statement, upon which the charges laid against it can be judged.

? ? ? ? ? ?

TO-DAY in British Guiana, a new constitution has been introduced. This constitution is so designed that in fact there is no freedom from imperialism either on a political or an economic level. A Party therefore which seeks to be returned to the Legislative Assembly is immediately faced with the task of formulating a policy which can work under these conditions of dependence. Such a policy will be able to cater only for reforms; for patches on the torn and ragged fabric of colonial reality.

These statements of policy . . . are such reforms. They are the reforms which will be attempted by the Party in the next four years, when, of course, the Party is returned as a majority Party.

? ? ?

LABOUR

The Party believes that Trade Unions which have the confidence of the majority of workers in an industry or service should be recognised to bargain for and on behalf of these workers. It will by Legislation based on the American Labour Relations Act secure the observance of this principle.

At the same time, the Party will insist on Trade Unions being the free and voluntary organisations, as they are known to be in the United Kingdom.

We will work for better conditions and pay for domestic workers. The Party will re-enact the HOLIDAYS WITH PAY LAW so that at least two weeks' annual leave with pay will become a reality for every worker.

The Employment Exchange should not be used for such menial tasks as that of strike breaking. The Party will extend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance to include industrial diseases.

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TRADE

We feel that we must extricate ourselves from our traditional colonial relationship of buying dear and selling cheap. We do not believe in the Commonwealth preferential Tariff System and strongly advocate a system of free trade. We are strongly opposed to the present system by which we are compelled to sell products to, and purchase our imports from certain countries only. Our Party will work for free trade and exchange of goods on the basis of reciprocal agreements.

We would give such protection as is necessary to encourage and develop our agriculture and local industries

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INDUSTRIALISATION AND TAXATION

In granting "aid" we will give preferential treatment to manufacturing industries as against extractive industries.

Foreign capital for the development of industries in the real interests of the colony will be encouraged.

We will raise and collect more by way of direct taxation from those who are able to pay and reduce the very high incidence of indirect taxation which falls heavily on the poor.

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AGRICULTURE

The Party plans to have:—

A co-ordinated over-all plan for the provision, control and maintenance of all drainage and irrigation works under a single authority in order to provide efficient drainage and irrigation for the more effective utilization of the agricultural lands in the colony.

Security of tenure extending to both building and agricultural lands . . .

Assisting peasants by revision of rent restriction ordinance to defend them against rapacious landlords; better prices for cane farmers.

An agricultural bank with sufficiently large capital to enable it to provide credit to farmers for the acquisition development and maintenance of agricultural holdings.

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COMMUNICATIONS

We shall immediately institute a thorough investigation of the working and administration of the Public Works Department and seek better control of expenditure in that Department. We stand for public ownership of all public utilities. We shall extend the electrical services to rural communities and seek better roads for the villages.

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EDUCATION

We will see that equal educational opportunities are provided for all regardless of race, creed, social origin, income or geographical location.

We will see that better and more schools are built to accommodate our children.

Technical schools will be established in order to train our workers for our industries.

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MEDICINE AND HEALTH

The P.P.P. shall seek to reorganise the medical services in order to ensure adequate medical treatment to the inhabitants of British Guiana irrespective of financial status or geographical location. We will institute a broad campaign for preventive medicine, including portable water supply for country districts.

The existing hospitals must be brought up to modern standards as regards equipment, diet, nursing and medical care.

We shall subsidise and station midwives in the rural areas in order to assist mothers and thereby reduce the infant and mother mortality rates.

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HOUSING

The Party will support: rental-purchase and government aided housing schemes . . . will seek to secure the extension of the Rent Restriction Ordinance to the whole colony to include all premises and building land.

Workers living in houses owned by their employers, e.g., on sugar estates and at Baxuite Companies, must get proper security of tenure.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Old Age Pension—Legislation to reduce pensionable age to 55. Abolition of the Means Test. Payment of the same pension to Old Age Pensioners in country and town.

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FEDERATION

The P.P.P. is in favour of the principle of Federation as it believes that Federation provides the shortest and surest path to national independence and ultimately to economic stability and social progress of the British Caribbean as a whole.

(The Party, however, rejects the Rance Report.)

The P.P.P. when elected to power will only commit British Guiana to Federation based on self-government after the people have expressed by way of REFERENDUM the desire to enter into the Federation.

JANET JAGAN says—

THE FIGHT GOES ON

THE spirit of the people's movement in British Guiana has not been altered by the harsh and shocking measures meted out by Her Majesty's Government. To the contrary, the people now have a new determination, borne out of the events of the past two weeks, which they never before displayed. Their faces carry a new calm, a new resolve, a sharp realization that British Imperialism is now something more tangible. They now understand, as they never before understood, what the harsh hand of British rule means.

As they stand in line to draw their savings from the banks, they do it with the new spirit of non-co-operation with the military regime. As they boycott the stores of the "big shots" they think with vivid thoughts of the hardships that have been their lot for all these years.

As they see British troops walk their streets, they see to themselves the real picture of the dictator Governor who they have now nicknamed "my wife and I" since His Excellency is always promising that "my wife and I" will visit you, etc

King Sugar, they say, has played his part in all this. We can thank the Sugar Gods for calling in the army and navy to take away our rights, for deposing our beloved leaders.

They look with scorn on the John Carters and Lionel Luckhoos who lost so heavily in the last elections. So you think they would get back again, they say. Like hell you will! We will wait patiently until they have to call new elections. They can wait as long as they want, but we will not change. They can try what they can to break the party, but it will not be broken.

A poor man comes to Party Headquarters. He owns nothing more than the clothes on his body, and a crude push-cart. He is Portugese, not black or East Indian. But he knows oppression, for poverty knows no colour line. "I will work for the Party," he says, "I will do anything you want me to do. Don't let our leaders be endangered by passing out handbills or doing anything that will get them imprisoned. We need them now. I will take the risks. I have nothing to lose."

Another man comes into Party headquarters. He is African. He carries his bag with tools, just off work. "God is with the Party", he says. "They persecuted Christ for the same things you are doing now. Do not be downspirited. We are praying for you. The Party can never die."

A ragged market woman walks in and puts two pennies in the tin for sending our delegates to London. "Are they all right?" she asks. "I heard that they were in trouble." When I assure her that they are well, she sighs a beautiful sigh of relief. All her love for her leaders is expressed in that sigh.

We have reached a new stage in the struggle. A new stage where the going is a little more difficult, where the forces against us will use harsher methods to keep us down. The police have already detained seven of our leaders. Our enemies are hopeful that the end of the People's Movement is now in sight. How wrong they are will be proved by the future years, as our movement gains in strength, from the very oppressive measures of our enemies.

The Tory Allegations — And the Facts

by L. F. BURNHAM

IN THIS article the former Minister of Education of British Guiana comments on some of the charges levelled at the People's Progressive Party in the British Government's White Paper. (The bold paragraphs are extracts from the White Paper.)

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The leaders of the P.P.P. had for some time made clear their preparedness to use force to gain their ends.

On April 27th, the people of British Guiana went to the polls. The ultra-conservatives had expected violence, the police were made to stand by, but under the leadership and on the advice of the P.P.P. the electors went quietly and calmly to exercise their votes. The day was as still as Good Friday and at its end 18 out of 22 P.P.P. candidates had won seats in the new House of Assembly.

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The P.P.P. has a well-developed cell system which enables contacts to be made and instructions issued, and there is reported to be a hard core of some 400-500 Party members . . . who are ready to do violence at the bidding of the leaders . . .

Our party worked unceasingly to educate and unite all sections of our population and its membership increased rapidly. We organised groups and constituency committees to study and discuss local and national problems and to find solutions and make their influence felt on the Central Party Executive. These were described as "Communist cells."

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Ministers made clear their intention to abolish the Public Service Commission . . .

We have been accused of tampering with the impartial Civil Service. The fact is that in British Guiana, with few exceptions, the most senior posts are filled by officials from abroad. As part of our wide appeal during our election campaign we stated that qualified Guianese should be given priority to all oppointments.

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Undermining the loyalty of the Police — They (P.P.P. Ministers) encouraged dissatisfied policemen to take their complaints to party leaders and used the dissidents to spread discontent and disaffection.

The men in the ranks are drawn entirely from the native population and the possibility of their reaching commissioned officer rank is very remote in the majority of cases. The officer class is imported in the main. In addition, the ordinary members of the police force suffered all the social and economic ills common to the rest of our people. Consequently they, as a group, saw in our programme the hope of better homes and better conditions.

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Plan to secularise Church schools and to re-write text-books to give them a political bias.

In British Guiana, over 90 per cent. of the elementary schools are controlled by Christian denominations, but are maintained and the teachers paid out of Government funds. Promotion for most teachers lies through their religious or denominational affiliations rather than professional ability. Those drawn from our Hindu and Muslim population — 40 per cent. of the whole — face a cul-de-sac.

The whole system is unsatisfactory and its abolition was recommended in 1941 by Mr. Hammond, the Education Adviser to the Comptroller of Colonial Development and Welfare in the West Indies. In accepting this recommendation, which has been supported on several occasions by the British Guiana Teachers' Association, we were prepared to provide the safeguard of allowing all religious denominations the right of access to schools at stated periods to give religious instruction to children of their respective persuasions. This reform earned us the accusation of seeking to create an "atheist Communist generation."

Much of our education is unrealistic in content and approach. For one thing, as was admitted in a **Report of Investigation into the Public Service** (1953), it is academic and formal, with the technical and practical aspects largely ignored.

Furthermore, children are taught little if anything about the history of their country and of the struggles and achievements of their forbears. British patriotic songs like "Rule Britannia" are their regular fare, and a love for and pride in their country is not encouraged, if not actually discouraged.

To remedy some of these weaknesses, the curricula were to be revised, some of the text-books re-written, and anthologies of Guianese poetry and literature prepared. Our coming generations were to be fitted to play their role and to know more of British Guiana, while being taught to appreciate the achievements and culture of other peoples.

* * * *

Reforms like these we planned and initiated. We sought to honour our election promises—universal adult suffrage for Local Government councils, utilisation of idle land, opening of all posts to local persons, secularisation and reorganisation of education, which are taken for granted and have been achieved in all parts of the world.

If these had been carried through we would have laid the basis for a virile nation, but these our opponents and high government officials branded Communist and totalitarian. And on October 8th, 1953, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers landed at Georgetown, a state of emergency was declared by the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, the elected Ministers were dismissed, and the Constitution suspended.

WHAT THE P.P.P. DID

THE People's Progressive Party introduced the following Bills:—

1. Amendment to "Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Bill".
2. Labour Relations Bill.
3. Bill repealing "Undesirable Publications Ordinance".
4. Bill to extend water facilities to suburbs of Georgetown.
5. Bill to limit interest charged by money lenders
6. Bill to extend food production loans including the fishing industry.

* *

The following Bills were in draft:—

1. Universal Adult Suffrage for local elections.
2. Bill to enact land law, setting up land authority.
3. Re-imposition of three sugar taxes (sugar duty, excise and acreage) abolished in January, 1953.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS FROM PEOPLE'S EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATION, JAMAICA

WE TAKE great pleasure in sending you greetings on the First Anniversary of your progressive journal.

The progressive forces in Jamaica, as well as in the entire Caribbean have been heartened and strengthened by the contributions made by your enlightened paper—indeed **"Caribbean News"** for the past year has become an invaluable weapon in the arsenal of our peoples.

March forward with us. for it is with the support of such assets as your paper that we will gain the freedom and peace for which we struggle.

Talking Points on British Guiana

ON THE northern coast of South America, British Guiana is about the same size as England, Wales, and Scotland — 83,000 square miles. Its neighbours are Venezuela on the left, Dutch Guiana on the right and Brazil on the South. Its population, however, is only 437,000—one-hundredth the population of Britain.

Most of the people live along a ten-mile deep strip along the coast, which is beneath sea-level, and along the 270 miles of this coastal belt runs a sea-wall to keep out the sea at high tide.

Here are to be found the sugar estates and rice fields. The 21 sugar estates and 14 sugar factories employ 30,000 workers, seasonally. During the non-working months many have to eke out a livelihood on their small plots.

PRODUCTS

The chief product of Guiana is sugar, closely rivalled by bauxite from which aluminium is made. Rice, gold and diamonds, timber, coconuts, rum, ground provisions are also produced.

Sugar production is in the hands of Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd., the Demerara Company, and Davson and Co. In 1951 they produced 216,236 tons of sugar compared with 880 small peasant producers who accounted for only 1,070 tons.

Booker Bros. increased their net profit from £207,000 in 1948 to £613,000 in 1951.

The Demerara Company's 1952 trading profit was £456,954, and net profit £182,498.

Bauxite is controlled by the Demerara Bauxite Co., a subsidiary of the Aluminium Company of Canada, which is connected with Mellon interests in the U.S. Operating through 47 subsidiaries in 20 countries this Company had a turnover of £333 million in 1952, and made gross profits of $109 million (net $22 million). Production in 1952 was 2,000,000 tons—all shipped to Canada where it is converted into aluminium.

LAND DISTRIBUTION

Average size of sugar estates is 7,000 acres, while the average size of peasant holdings is 2.48 acres, and 25 per cent. of these peasants have less than one acre of land. The big sugar companies control directly 170,000 acres of land, only half of which is cultivated, the rest being left idle and untended.

WAGES

Weekly earnings of adult male field workers on the estates average from £1 7s. to £2 0s. 6d. Women doing the same work were getting 16s. to 18s. Young people earned 15s. 8d. (boys) and 12s. 1d. (girls).

PRICES

Most items of food and clothing, which are imported, cost about the same or in some cases even more than in Britain. Official cost of living index rose from 100 in 1938 to 261 in 1951.

HOUSING

A Government survey of houses in Georgetown, the capital, found that "of 7,994 houses surveyed . . . only 382 were structurally sound" (Col. No. 281-4 H.M.S.O). Half the families on the estates live in "ranges" — barrack-like structures, one family to a room.

HEALTH

There is one doctor for every 5,000 people and one dentist for 10,000 people. Infantile mortality in 1951 was 77 per thousand, compared with 32 per thousand in Britain. The incidence of tuberculosis was 90 per thousand.

EDUCATION

Twenty-one per cent. of the population over 10 years are illiterate.

It is estimated that about 13,000 children of school age do not attend school. (Ten Year Planning Report of 1948).

SOCIAL SECURITY

There are no health or unemployment insurance schemes. Old age pensions are granted to those over 65 years, after passing a Means Test. The pension paid is 18s. 9d. PER MONTH in Georgetown, and 12s. 6d. in the countryside.

P.N.P. SELLS OUT

by Rolly Simms

THE weakness of Lyttelton's defence in the House of Commons on British Guiana is evident from the fact that statements made by Grantley Adams of Barbados, and Manley and Bustamante of Jamaica, were used to open the debate and to "prove" how popular in the West Indies the suspension of the B.G. Constitution was.

Grantley Adams has acquired in recent years the reputation of being prime spokesman for American capitalism in the West Indies. The reasons for Manley and Bustamante joining hands and sinking their political differences and assisting the British Tories in attacking the P.P.P. might not be so evident to some people.

The first Bill introduced by the P.P.P. after their April election victory was one which removed restrictions on West Indians travelling to British Guiana. The first Order proclaimed by the Governor after the withdrawal of the Constitution re-imposed the old bans and prohibitions on West Indians and others entering B.G.

Manley and Bustamente have no words of censure for Lyttelton and the Tories; they are reserved for Jagan and the P.P.P. This question of immigration into B.G. has been made into one of the prime accusations against the P.P.P. Before the April elections, West Indians other than Jamaicans going to B.G. have to deposit a sum not less than $96 (£20) if they were staying any length of time.

If that West Indian happened to be a Jamaican, however, he had to deposit no less than $300 (about £62) as a minimum.

In attempting to remedy this and other discriminations in the immigration laws, and to improve the general conditions of the Guianese people, the P.P.P. are now told by Manley that they have committed 'a reckless and stupid betrayal of those who voted for them."

On the question of who has really betrayed the West Indian people, it is necessary for us to examine the record of Grantley Adams and Manley. Bustamente, of course, has nothing to be examined. His record is well-known to all. The following is reprinted from the Barbados newspaper "The Torch", 1st August, 1953:—

"Roughly for about the last seven years, Mr. Adams has been receiving a salary of approximately $300 (about £62) a month as President General of the B.W.U. That means that by now he has received the colossal sum of $25,200 (£5,250) from the funds of the Barbados Workers' Union.

His Electricity, Telephone and Water Rate Bills have been paid from its funds and, more than that, his Parochial tax bills. Frequently, but secretly, the complaint has been made that this drain on the resources of the Union was excessive.

We neither know, nor care. But how this enormous salary? How many of the delegates present tomorrow knew of it before? Where is the sacrifice he has made?

We state that at no time in his career as a barrister did he ever earn an average salary of $300 per month. But if he wishes to contradict us, we challenge him to produce his Income Tax returns for the fifteen years preceding his assumption of office in the Barbados Workers' Union.

But as if all this were not enough, we pay him $160 (about £33) a month to lead our Government in the House of Assembly. And we throw in an extra $100 (about £20) for the privilege of having him in the House. In addition he has, for the purpose of his travels, an expense account at the Union, in the Treasury, and from overseas organisations."

That, mind you, from a Barbados newspaper. We need only emphasise that this defender of his people earns £115 flat a month doing it

This is the man who dares to decry Jagan for putting "communist ideology before the good of the people". The ideology which he has put before the welfare of the Barbadian people is plain. It is worth £115 a month.

At the P.N.P. Conference in Kingston last year, when the left-wing was kicked out by Manley, there were so many cases of corruption exposed that disillusion was widespread among all sections of the people. A few of the cases revealed were:—

1. The purchase of an estate near Clearmont by Dr. Lloyd, leading member of the People's National Party, with money put up by various small persons to start a type of communal farm. Bauxite was discovered after the purchase by Lloyd, and he sold the property to Reynolds, an American Bauxite Company, for a fabulous price. He then returned to his partners the money which they had originally put up, and endeavoured to hold on to the profits he had made. He was not quite successful in this but the corruption here is plain.

2. Another leading member of the P.N.P., Sievright, owner of a large bakery, has been for many years the spokesman for the bakery employers. When Ken Hill argued on behalf of the bakery workers for a wage increase, he was vigorously and viciously opposed by Sievright although at that time they were both sitting on the Executive Committee of the P.N.P. It was Ken Hill, however, along with others, who were expelled from the P.N.P.

3. For a long while nationalisation of the City 'bus services was in the programme of the P.N.P., but by "sheer coincidence", when H. O. Davies, a leading P.N.P. member, became a partner in the 'Bus Company, operating in the city, this demand was dropped from the programme of the P.N.P.

Manley has not spoken out against these things and therefore by his silence condones them. The speed with which he rushed to condemn the P.P.P. is significant because even the editors of three daily papers in Georgetown refused to comment on the situation in Guiana up to that time, stating that they would wait until they had been "fully, properly and truthfully appraised of the existing situation in all its aspects and antecedents." (**"Times"**, 9th October, 1953.)

Basing himself on official reports which have in the beginning stated that the "Superb" was coming to Jamaica for exercises, Manley rushes in to condemn another West Indian leader and praise the Tory Party, and by inference attacks the British Labour Party for criticising the Tories over their actions in Guiana.

To see such an abject surrender by one who was at one time held in high esteem throughout the West Indies is very painful, but it shows clearly that whoever adopts an anti-socialist, and anti-left-wing position, without fail is quite easily led into adopting an anti-national, anti-West Indian attitude and even, as in this case, supporting British Toryism which is, at this moment, besides intimidating Guianese, busily engaged in massacering the people of Kenya.

The twisted leadership of Manley, Adams and Bustamente and the brutal actions of the British Tories combine to slander and intimidate the P.P.P. and Guiana.

But long after Manley, Adams, Bustamente and Lyttelton have been forgotten, Jagan and the policies of the P.P.P. will be enshrined in the hearts of Guianese people, leading a decent, healthier and happier life because of the struggles through which they are now passing.

It is up to West Indians to choose between Lyttelton, Manley, Adams and Bustamente — with the miserable exploiting system they represent — and the progressive policies of the P.P.P. in Guiana, the West Indian Independence Party in Trinidad, and the Federation of Trade Unions in Jamaica.

CN Fund Success

WELL DONE, collectors and givers! Collecting cards were issued in the middle of September and since then some people have been very hard at work. In the two weeks that were left of September, £4.6.3d. reached me, a very promising start.

For this month of October the fund has reached a total of £11.7.11d., not including promises from late-comers. Of this amount £6 goes to pay for our office where the editorial work is done, the rest goes to the printer.

Although this is a good start, don't let us slacken our efforts. We want more next month—we are printing more copies for November, 5,000 instead of the previous 2,000, and the pages have been increased to eight. So all you people with collecting cards peacefully sleeping in your pockets—wake up and get them out. People will give if only you try. Ralph Bennett has found so many willing givers that he has to use two cards. One card will not hold all the names. What about YOU?

A special thanks is due to a friend in Longton, Albery Walters, who helped organise a meeting in his town on British Guiana and took a collection of £1 for "Caribbean News".

Send donations to: Anne Simms, 41, Eresby Road, N.W.6.

Britain Hears Guiana's Case

ON THURSDAY, 22nd of last month, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Prime Minister of British Guiana, and Mr. Forbes Burnham, Minister of Education, launched their attack on Tory warship colonialism, right here in London, at the Holborn Hall, under the auspices of the C.L.C. (L.B.).

It was just a few days since the Colonial Office had revoked the Constitution of their country, landed troops and suspended normal democratic rights.

On Friday, 9th, Mr. Rolly Simms of the Caribbean Labour Congress, Mr. D. N. Pritt, Q.C., who had defended Jomo Kenyatta, and Mr. John Horner, Secretary of the Fire Brigades' Union, had carefully outlined to a huge audience at the Holhorn Hall the grim significance of this Tory attack. About 300 people from the meeting then marched down and protested before the Colonial Office.

On Thursday, 22nd, a mammoth crowd of West Indians and British well-wishers heard Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham refute point by point all the allegations made in the Government's White Paper. Their candour and sincerity did much to dispel the fog of lies and distortions that the press of this country had created.

Housewives, workers, students, they all rose and cheered tumultuously as the P.P.P. leader ended his speech. But that was not all. A crowd of 2,000, unable to enter the building which was jam-packed, heard him speak again outside.

At the London School of Economics, on the Friday following, it was the same thing; and so, too. at Cambridge University.

Mr. Lyttelton had got more than he bargained for.

Meanwhile, C.L.C. speakers had been touring the country, awakening the British people to the grave misdeed committed in their names and obtaining ever more requests for Dr. Jagan to speak. This campaign launched by the C.L.C. has shown once again that it is always in the forefront of the struggle for West Indian rights.

However, it is not enough for the C.L.C. to earn respect, it needs support. All West Indians must rally together. To-morrow it may be Jamaica or Trinidad. Let the part we play in London here to-day in this B.G. issue show the Tories once and for all that we mean to fight for, and win, political freedom, economic independence, and the right to a decent way of life.

* * * *

'Grave Threat to Liberties'

On Saturday, November 15th, an emergency delegate conference of the National Council of Civil Liberties met in the Beaver Hall, London, to discuss the White Paper on British Guiana and to hear Dr. Jagan's reply to its charges.

After hearing Dr. Jagan, and after a thorough debate, the conference passed the following resolution with only one dissentient.

THIS conference have examined the British Government's White Paper and having heard the reply of Dr. Jagan expresses its profound disapproval of the action of our Government in suspending the Constitution of British Guiana.

It holds that this action, which has resulted in the destruction of all democratic safeguards, and in particular in the introduction of arrests and detentions without charge or trial, has not been justified by the White Paper.

This course was totally unwarranted and contains a grave threat to civil liberties throughout the British Commonwealth and Empire.

This conference requests the Executive Committee of the N.C.C.L. to make known these views to the British Government and to take such other steps to publicise this opinion as it deems fit.

The conference urges all delegates and visitors to protest to their M.P.s and to ask any organisations with which they are associated to take similar protest action.

All present undertake also to use the occasion of Human Rights Day, December 10th, to organise protests in writing and any other way to the Colonial Office.

36 YEARS OF UNHAMPERED DEVELOPMENT

by Chris Le Maitre

THE Soviet Union celebrated its 36th anniversary on Saturday, 7th November, 1953. This day is recognised by workers, and especially by oppressed colonial people throughout the world, as the day on which, 36 years ago, the workers of Russia overthrew the shackles of the old order and ushered in a new form of society where man ceased to be the exploiter of his fellow man.

We express our hearty congratulations to the Soviet nations, and as colonials re rejoice at the achievements of the citizens of the Czarist ex-colonies. How different is their existence today—36 years after that eventful occasion.

These Deputies to the Supreme Soviet come from the racial minorities of the great Union. In the U.S.S.R., all races are equal and control their own destinies.

We look back at the progress and development of the Soviet Union in the light of, to us its most important decrees—"The Declaration of Rights of the Peoples of Russia". This special edict of the young Soviet government, laid down the law giving the right to "unhampered development and complete equality" to its multi-racial population.

This edict, serving as a bond of friendship has held the Soviet peoples together, strengthening their great country.

Man, in his quest to improve his position in life, grapples with nature bringing himself increasingly near to being equal with nature, and ultimately its master. For man to assume that responsibility free from oppressive ideas he must, indeed, be his "brother's keeper". Thus he must be considered equal to all other men–men whom decadent imperialism kept in serfdom and racial inferiority.

The last war in which, according to Sir Winston Churchill, the Soviet army 'tore the guts" out of the German war machine, showed the world the gigantic strength of a multi-racial community fighting all for one and one for all.

Looking at the ex-colonies of Tsarist Russia, let us see what has happened in formerly one of the most backward in Asia—Uzbekistan.

Before the revolution the industrial production of this great cotton area yielded 269 million roubles per annum. By 1924 it was established as a Union Republic, and by 1928 the first cotton mills were installed. Within 15 years, Uzbekistan was changed from a backward colony to the most flourishing republic of the Soviet East.

As the base of the Soviet textile industry by 1939, it reached an annual production of 150 million metres of fabric. Its industrial output within a few years had jumped to 2,800 million roubles per annum—an increase of approximately 10.5 times!

Before the revolution no general education obtained in Uzbekistan; no form of compulsory education; no polytechnical education. Up to 1917 only 75,000 pupils were catered for in 917 schools.

By 1950, 1,300,000 pupils were catered for in 5,000 schools. Today, the Uzbek nation has its own language, opera house, various educational, cultural and scientific institutions.

The contrast is clear when we see the conditions existing in British Guiana after 150 years of British rule.

Unhesitatingly we salute the heroic Soviet peoples. And as we look at Malaya, Kenya and, yes, British Guiana—where our people's democratically elected representatives have been arbitarilly removed by the strong arms of British imperialism—we remember, too, the words of Mr. Anastas Mikoyan.

Mr. Mikoyan, Soviet Trade Minister said that freeing the arms industry from producing arms to produce household requirements put the "Industrialisation of the Soviet Union and swift development of heavy industry as a material basis for a swift advance in the welfare of our people undreamed of in history."

BANS COULD NOT DESTROY US

by Keith Thomas

> **Go forth among the people proclaiming the truth;**
> **It shall lighten their path from the house of bondage,**
> **And finally remove oppression by the root.**

SINCE the formation of the C.L.C. (London Branch), workers organisations in the West Indies have always appreciated the work it does. And they have looked forward to the C.L.C. to publicise their activities.

However, the limitations of doing the job as the situation warrants was seen. And mid-year 1952, the Executive Committee after detailed discussion, decided that a newspaper was the best means of forwarding the work.

The West Indies being mainly small islands dispersed over the Caribbean, suffer the handicap of communication. This handicap relates almost entirely to the various progressive working class organisations. The big business interests that operate against them prefer that they get no knowledge of each other's activities.

In November, 1952, the first issue of **"Caribbean News"**—a monthly newspaper—was produced. And for the first time in the history of the Br. West Indies there was a newspaper devoted to working class news of each territory. Not only local West Indian news was made available, but also international working class news.

All this flow of news has been possible because of our strategic London position for centralisation and distribution, and the efforts of our correspondents, especially those in the West Indies.

Despite the obstacles such as bans in the West Indies and financial difficulties, **"Caribbean News"** has completed the first year. Scanning our issues, one can see why British Imperialism has been trying to destroy us.

The P.P.P. of Br. Guiana has been their target for destruction because it is the organisation of the people. **"Caribbean News"** is also a target because it is the voice of the people. But like the P.P.P. we stand by our word. We refuse to die.

Each West Indian can do his or her part in keeping **"C.N."** afloat by ordering or purchasing a copy each month; or giving what you can to the fighting fund.

The truth about Br. Guiana will reach the West Indies through **"Caribbean News"**.

Let us then begin another year with the support of all, and support will not only mean the purchasing of your **"News"**, but enrolling in the Caribbean Labour Congress.

Letter Box

To the Editor, "Caribbean News".

Dear Sir,

What is democracy?

Is it the right of a people to elect their own Government to carry out their wishes, or is it the right of a minority to subjugate the majority?

Today we can see democracy on trial in British Guiana. The majority elected a People's Government; the minority gloated with hypocritical tendencies, hoping that the People's Government would be their instrument. But when they realised this government was a democratic status, this minority then began to create plots of various kinds against this government, until these plots evolved into the demanding of warships and aircraft carriers of the highest order, to suppress the People's Government, and the withdrawal of the Constitution, which is the people's right.

We, the colonial people, have always defended democracy, and we shall continue to do so with all our strength. We are determined that a minority shall not dress democracy in a funeral shroud under the pretences of red plots, or any other foreign names.

—R. Bennett

MESSAGE FROM KINGSTON

Jamaican Youth Shocked at Crime Against Guiana

THE progressive Youth of Jamaica have been outraged by the shocking news of the suspension of the constitution of British Guiana.

This action of the British imperialist Government constitutes a major crime against the will of the people of British Guiana, and should stir the utmost indignation of all young people in the Caribbean who believe in freedom, justice and peace.

The sending of troops to intimidate and terrorise the population of British Guiana can only be regarded as another attempt at mass annihilation on colonial peoples, as is the case in Kenya and Malaya.

This most blatant piece of provocation confirms the aggressive aims of that section of the colonial rulers who can only thrive on the exploitation of colonial peoples.

The British Government has thought to justify its armed provocation in the pretence that the military and naval forces are sent to preserve "law and order".

We believe in law and order, we believe that if laws are just order will be maintained. But we also believe that when law becomes the sanctuary and weapon of oppressors, then the struggle for their removal should be hailed by all democratic people who uphold the rights of nations to self-determination.

In the name of young Jamaica, the Jamaica Youth Movement calls upon the youths of the West Indies to intensify their resistance to colonial slavery, and expresses its complete solidarity with the young Patriots of British Guiana in their fight for their hard-won constitution, full national independence and peace.

We demand the immediate withdrawal of the British imperialist troops from the soil of British Guiana.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE GUIANESE PEOPLE FOR FREEDOM.

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY AND ITS LEADERS.

JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE— *continued from p.1.*

Confederation of Trade Unionists led by Grantley Adams and Manley, other unions being affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unionists from its earlier days. We wanted to create unity of the West Indian labour movement, because if there was to be a division simply because of different affiliations, it did not help the labour movement.

Richard Hart said that Smith was prepared to tell the W.F.T.U. that a Caribbean body should be formed and that we were prepared to support it equally with the I.C.F.T.U. We want unity in the labour movement of the West Indies, and support it equally financially. West Indian people have very low wages, the labour movement is financially very insecure.

Mr. Lyttelton has said that we all gathered in Barbados for a Communist plot to destroy the democratic government in the West Indies.

The moment you begin to fight for the oppressed, every obstruction is put in your way. In my own constituency at the last election, tresspass notices were issued. I went to speak to my constituents and was charged before the Court for trespassing. That is the freedom in British Guiana and the West Indies.

So we said, the first thing we will do is to remove bans on all West Indian leaders. That was nothing new, it was part of the election campaign like many other things.

Another charge was that we were "Repealing the Act forbidding undesirable publications."

Who has the Declaration of Human Rights? All countries, yet we have the farce that you may hold opinions, but when you want to put them into practice in the colonies, you cannot do so. The "Undesirable Publications Bill" gave the Governor power to declare any publication undesirable, and gave the Post-Master General the right to open all letters.

The White Paper seeks to build up the accusation of Communism. Since the election a plot has been growing, but all activities were going on long before the election. All the opposition to the P.P.P. from press and pulpit said that they were Communists. Two Sundays before the election a supplement appeared in three newspapers saying the P.P.P. was a Communist Party and so forth. Not only through the press, but also from the pulpits. This charge of Communism is not new, it was an election issue. But we can not understand why it is put across now.

"Right of appointments." Anything the Government wanted was passed through the legislature in the past Government. Boards and committees were packed by us, said the Governor. Why, it was they who did that before. We always made it clear that the P.P.P. was a workers' party. We put workers in committees and see nothing wrong with it.

"Spreading of racial hatred". This is the biggest joke of all. If there is one thing the British Government regrets in British Guiana it is the unity of all races. The old policy of divide and rule has no place there.

Political movements were once led by two organisations, East Indians and Negro. But we were able to bring the races together. We have in our party all races, people who are prepared to fight against vested interests.

"Plot to secularise schools." This was done after the French Revolution, and is an old practice.

The Governor did not tell me that the Ministers neglected their duties. While I was a dentist and a lone voice crying in the wilderness, I never worked so hard as these last few months. Four months we were in office and in possession of all the files; now we are told we neglected our duties.

"Undermining of the loyalty of police." This is the first time that a reactionary government has been afraid of the police in any country. Police are recruited from people who cannot find other jobs. They are displaced workers. We told them we sympathised with their cause.

I had asked before in the House why they had such bad jobs. We were fighting for the policemen and they were in sympathy with the P.P.P. Police in the past had to obey instructions of white officers. I am not talking about racial hatred, but the planter class and the sugar-bosses.

When it comes to strikes or quelling disturbances the police are sent not because of law and order, but to carry out commands of officers who are sympathetic to reaction.

A great deal has been said about a statement of mine torn out of context: That the police were used before to shoot workers. They shot at workers who tried to run away. We don't want police like that. When I speak of "people's police" I mean police that will not act in that way. But my remark was torn out of context.

I don't want to go into the charges in detail because they have no foundation and it is a pity I was not able to speak in the House of Commons to refute them. My colleagues and I want to take this matter to the British people, because we know that the Tory Government does not speak for the British people.

Let me give you some examples from our legislation.

When tenants did not cultivate their land properly, it could be taken away from them. But the old Bill had forgotten the landlord who was not obliged to provide proper drainage and irrigation. I introduced an amendment that if the landlord does not do this he will be given time to do it, then the Government will do it and collect the money from him.

This Bill was passed through the House, but the State Council called it terrorism, and the Bill was rejected.

I wanted to introduce universal adult suffrage for town and village councils which are partly nominated and partly elected on a property basis. That is democracy in British Guiana. In our election manifesto we said: universal adult suffrage in voting for the House. When we brought it in, the Governor said we must consult the people. We said the people had already voted on it and given us victory.

We went to local authorities and told them what we wanted to do; but the opposition voices were heard in all newspapers. Local elections were to be held in November this year. We wanted the Bill to be passed in time for the elections and asked the Governor to use his powers to bring both Houses together in one session

The Attorney General delayed the Bill. They knew that, having won the general elections, with proper election we would sweep the country and win the councils, too.

When the Constitution was written, I was in London. They mentioned my trips to the East; but not that I spoke on Labour platforms. I held press conferences, exposing the Constitution and pointing out its limitations. The State Council would have the power to veto legislation for one year.

The Constitution makers were very clever; these checks were to be used in the last resort. But their time table was upset because we won 18 seats from 24 and controlled the executive council. As we were bent on carrying out the election pledges, it was only a matter of months before the Government and the Upper House were exposed to the people; that is why they have acted as they did. This is not a Communist plot. The P.P.P. is a broad movement, to fight for the oppressed people of British Guiana. They did not sell out.

All so-called leaders in the West Indies have betrayed their movement, but we intend to carry this fight to the finish. The people's movement has been destroyed by force. They tell us that only Communists rule by force, but here is their democracy ruling by force.

Not Communism but western democracy is on trial. I appeal to the British people. I know that you have fought many battles for freedom, and won them. And you will support us in our hour of need.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 374, Grays Inn Road, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6d.)

NAME ....
(Block Letters, Please.)

ADDRESS ....

....

Grenada Tenor Wins London Contest

A PACKED Albert Hall audience thunderously applauded Mr. Jerome Redhead (L. Raymond), tenor, winner of the All Nations Cavalcade of Song and Dance vocalist competition, on Sunday, 3rd October, 1953.

Mr. Redhead, a mechanic from Grenada, West Indies, came to England as a member of the West Indies R.A.F. contingent. He has been singing with success and last Sunday's win was his fourth in as many competitions. He hopes to make singing a career.

Mr. Redhead's prize would be a first class ticket for a 7 to 8 day ocean holiday voyage to France and Germany on the liner "Neptunia" of the Greek Line.

THESE FINE BOOKS MAY BE YOURS

A SALES competition has just been started by **"Caribbean News".** A prize will be awarded to the person who sells the largest number of **"Caribbean News"** over a period of three months, starting with this anniversary issue (November).

The figure taken will be the total for three issues.

As a prize, Billy Strachan, the Secretary of the C.L.C. (London Branch) has offered an attractively bound book in three volumes which he brought back from Czechoslovakia.

It is printed in English and is called "ROAD TO LIFE", by Makarenko. It deals with the true and exciting story of the rehabilitation to normal and useful life of a group of delinquents in the early days of the Soviet Union.

A remarkable film has also been made of it.

Well, eager-beavers, are you going to try for it, while at the same time helping **"Caribbean News".**

* * * *

NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has moved its offices to **374, Grays Inn Road, N.W.1.** (Near King's Cross tube station.)

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

New Recordings
BY
PAUL ROBESON
S.A.E. for particulars
from
WORKERS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION
17 Bishopsbridge Road, W.2.

CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS
(London Branch)
GENERAL MEETING
Holborn Hall
Sunday, 29th November — 2.0-5.30 p.m.
Important Discussion on BRITISH GUIANA.

THIS IS IT!!!
PRE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
9 Haslemere Road, N.8. (Crouch End)
2d. 'Bus Ride From Archway Underground Station.
West Indian Food and Rum Punch
West Indian Dancing to Calypsoes
Admission: 2/-.

Forthcoming
C.L.C. DANCES
Saturday, 16th January
Saturday, 20th February
Saturday, 3rd April
ALL to be at the
ROYAL HOTEL, Russell Square
● **With TOP BAND** ●

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Caribbean News 6d.

February 1954

Why P.P.P. Boycotts B.G. Commission

Page 4

JAMAICA UNION IN FIGHT FOR MORE WAGES

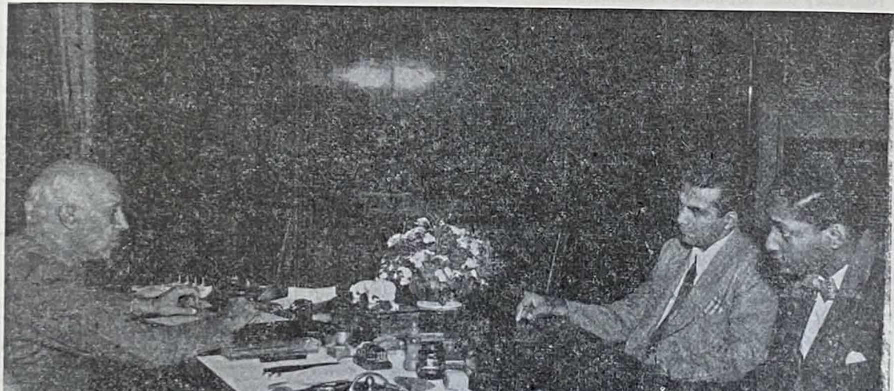
New Sugar Union Wins Support—after TUC break

AN increasing number of Jamaica's agricultural workers are now rallying to the support of the six month old Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union which is affiliated to the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions. This union has made a demand for an overall increase of wages by 33⅓% or by 4d. in the 1/- for members on the estates affected.

Alarmed by this rivalry to his decaying Industrial Trade Union, the demagogue Bustamente threatened to introduce legislation to prevent recognition of this new trade union. But so strong has been the support from the workers that the decision of the registrar of Trade Unions to accept its registration has been no surprise to those who have viewed its steady progress since its inception. Already it has won a majority of the workers on the 12 largest of the 20 major sugar estates.

★ Continued on page 5

INDIA GIVES BIG WELCOME TO JAGAN AND BURNHAM — See Story Page 3



Cheddi Jagan and L.F.S.Burnham with Premier Nehru

WELCOME BACK BILLY! With a fresh burst of energy and enthusiasm Billy Strachan Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has returned after a long spell in hospital, to take up his old fighting job. Billy has been secretary of the CLC(L/B) since its foundation in May 1948.
Glad to have you back!

Trinidad Leader was Detained in Scotland

LEAVING the British Isles recently on their return to the West Indies two of the British Caribbean delegates— John La Rose, Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. E.T. Joshua, St. Vincent, were subjected to a rigorous search at Prestwick airport in Scotland. The B.O.A.C. plane in which they were travelling was delayed for half an hour while the Prestwick security officers went through the baggage of John La Rose.

In spite of protest they took from an old address book the addresses of British friends some of whom were in no way connected with the working class struggle.

Back in Trinidad all the typewritten and handwritten matter belonging to the Hon. E. T. Joshua was seized and searched. They were returned to him on the day he left for St. Vincent only as a result of vigorous protest and his refusal to leave until his materials were returned to him. La Rose was searched for three hours and his things taken from him for further examination. Even three childen's story books were seized for so-called examination. Up to the 4th January, the Customs has failed to return the things taken for examination.

In a letter to the Comptroller of Customs and Excise, La Rose has charged that the Customs Department is being conveniently used by the Security Police to get information. He pointed out that Security police were present at the searches and challenged the Comptroller to institute an enquiry into the situation.

Ram Karran, a Guianese delegate to the W.F.T.U. Congress, escaped the bans in Trinidad, but a gripful of books was confiscated by the Trinidad Customs officials on the grounds that they had found a banned publication in the grip. Ram Karan has denied that he had any banned publication in his grip. (C.P.N.S.).

Rance wants £120,000 for troops —but Cuts Children's Free Milk

SPEAKING at a meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) last month, Mr. John La Rose, of the Trinidad West Indian Indepedence Party, revealed that cuts had been ordered in the government subsidy of free milk at certain schools. Meanwhile £120,000 was blandly earmarked for a B.W.I. Regiment.

On housing, Mr. La Rose explained that 70% of Trinidad's workers were employed in the sugar and oil industries. Hence workers affected by housing problems are mainly those on estates as tenants or oil-workers.

...Workers in these, the two most profitable industries, sometimes live in hovels 10 x 10 with families of from three to nine.

Due to Labour pressure after the War, a committee (Landlord-dominated) was set up, but they ruled that new houses should not be subject to the Rent Restriction Ordinance.

"This move", he remarked, increased rents and people were paying 'rewards' to get houses. After a grant of nearly £1,800,000, it was found that only 8,106 persons benefited!"

His Party demanded that around £8,000,000 be provided over a period of five years for a working class housing project. He was confident that the money could be raised by the reimposition of the Excess Profits tax, and increased royalties on oil.

"Sorry—full up"

Illiteracy in Trinidad is 37.6%, due to children not attending schools. Compulsory education meant nothing because the schools cannot cope with the number of children wishing to attend.

Quite often a school built for 300 pupils is taking as many as 800.

Free milk is provided at some schools, but recently the Director of Education has ordered a cut to be made in the government subsidisation of milk for schools. This move has met with strong objections from the West Indian Independence Party.

Unemployment is one of Trinidad's most pressing problems. Mr. La Rose pointed out that in the post-war boom, Trinidad's unemployed numbered 18% of the working population, and he compared this with the unemployed figure of 13% in Britain during the depression of 1926.

His Party was pledged to enact an unemployment insurance scheme whereby each unemployed person shall receive a minimum of one guinea per week. They proposed to the government that the £120,000 earmarked for reviving a West India Regiment be used to inaugurate this scheme,

Concluding, Mr. La Rose said he wished to give 'the lie' to Lyttelton's charges that no protests from the West Indian Labour movement reached him following the abrogation of Guiana's constitution.

Immediately the news reached Trinidad, his Party cabled protests to Lyttelton, and along with the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Council organised mass meetings and forwarded protests to the governor for transmission to the Colonial Office in London.

His Party stands solidly behind the P.P.P. in Guiana and will do all they can to promote West Indian unity and further the fight for independence and federation.

Mr. John La Rose

Trinidad's Money

ELSEWHERE in this issue we read of plans to send Mr. Dalley of the T.U.C. and of the I.C.F.T.U., naturally, to visit Trinidad to give the Trade Unions the once-over.

Simultaneously we read in the London Press that:

> "the directors of TRINIDAD LEASEHOLD LTD. intend to raise the total dividend for 1952/53 to 20% by increasing the final payment to 15% from 11-2/3% of last year".

This would be nice talk if it were for the oil field workers. But it does not take much reading to see who is concerned. The finance columns talk of £1,639,452 previously pinched from the workers being 'capitalised'. "Treasury consent to the issue has been obtained". This further identifies shareholders of TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS LTD. with British Government policy.

* * *

Look at the swag—£1,774,652 NETT PROFIT, after all charges, including taxation, and after transferring £101,056 to contingencies reserves.

Now why associate Mr. Dally's visit with big profits?

It is not a long story. Last year the oil field workers fought hard and won a small increase in hourly wage rates.

Well, somebody is scared and rightfully so, too. Look out, the communist bogey is going to be well splashed and Mr. Dalley is well-known for his **anti-communism.**

Communism or anti-communism, here is the news of exorbitant profits straight from London's Tory Press. Oilfield workers now know **from where** and **how much** there is to be had when they make demands this year—1954.

* * *

TRINIDAD SUGAR ESTATES:—things are looking up. Increased dividends to 7½% per cent from 5% last year.

Nett profits rose from £8,568 last year to the staggering amount of £54,734.

Whew! it looks as if the sugar workers are going to want some more too—do you wonder why?

* * *

Oilworkers' wages vary between 2/6 to 8/8 per day, while agricultural workers average £7.10.0 per month.

More West Indians BANNED

147 different kinds of undesirable immigrants have been banned from entering Trinidad, states an order issued last November.

This Order, states Mr. Maurice Dorman, the colonial secretary, indicates that the government does not intend any change in its existing policy of keeping local jobs for local men.

Journalists have alleged that this order was introduced with the specific intention of deporting Mr. David Nelson of St. Kitts, political correspondent of the "Trinidad Guardian" and an outspoken critic of the administration.

This view is substantiated by the fact that a critical skit on Legislative Council proceedings in mid-1951, by Mr. C. Walters, an English journalist, led to a hullaballoo from "offended" legislators.

Mr. Nelson came to Trinidad in 1950 and in November 1953 the government refused to renew his permit. Subsequently he was granted a 14-day permit but banned from working. The two cases of Mr. Walters and Mr. Nelson should recall to Jamaicans the case of Mr. Roger Mais and his column "Now we know".

The Government's actions also recall the deportation of Captain Mussons, an English journalist and his wife, a Guianese, in 1952. The Mussons were awarded damages. Mr. Nelson is fighting his case in court.

Behind the kicking-outs is Rance, "architect of Federation".

★ EDITORIAL ★

A NEW YEAR DAWNS

THE past year has been a very full and momentous one for the West Indies. Many important far-reaching steps have been taken, both by the people in their strivings for elementary rights and freedom, and also by our rulers.

The people's movement reached its high-point when on April 27th the Guianese people elected the P.P.P.

In Trinidad we have seen the consolidation and maturing of the new West Indian Independence Party and the unity displayed in the tremendous May Day demonstration.

Despite set-backs of the movement in Jamaica helped by the splitting and re-splitting of the Left, we see in the new Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions the possibility of a revival of the movement on correct lines.

The people of St. Vincent are on the move with the militant leadership of Joshua. And in spite of police repression, Joshua and the Peoples Political Party move from strength to strength.

Barbados—the stronghold of Grantely Adams—sees the birth of the C.P.A., a new political party with a programme for Independence and Federation.

But side by side with the growth of the people's movements, the imperialist forces have stepped up their repressive actions, from the pettifogging bans against certain publications and persons to the zenith so far of their infamy—the sudden expulsion of the democratically elected government of Guiana. In this particular action we saw more clearly than in any other the brutal face of British imperialism

Our people need not feel helpless or downhearted when opposed by such seemingly formidable forces. Now is not the time for hopelessness. We must remember that had not we ourselves been becoming a challenge to imperialism, the colonialists would never have worried us. In fact it is the West Indian people who are steadily becoming stronger, and not British Imperialism, which gets weaker insofar as we colonial people become stronger. How have we become stronger when we don't have guns and bullets to defend ourselves?

Our strength lies first of all in our unity, in our understanding, and our striving for our common goal—political independence and federation—which open the way to a fuller and happier life.

We shall have to meet the British boss class, their Lytteltons and gun boats with greater resolve, unity, and experience.

We can take courage and strength from the knowledge that the great majority of the British working class are on our side, as shown in the striking sympathy with Guiana and indignation displayed at the Tory Government's action. But the British working people do not yet see the power of united action of their class. The strike action and movement now stirring in Britain can be taken as a pointer of things to come. The British working class are the natural allies of the West Indian people, despite the fact that at presnt it is the colonial people who are at the front in the anti-imperialist struggle.

We wish our readers and the whole West Indian people a happy new year, knowing full well that if this is not to remain a meaningless phrase, we shall all have to put our efforts into the struggle for our Happy New Year, and the happier new years to come. Our future is in our hands.

The British rulers are showing by their actions that they do not mean to tolerate the slightest expression of democratic opinion from the colonial people, and their leaders when and if they stand up for the rights of their people.

Buganda and Guiana

In Malaya they used the excuse of "bandits", in Kenya "Mau Mau". In British Guiana where they could not dream of using any of these excuses, they brought out the "red plot" bogey-man. Then came along the Kabaka of Buganda, and even the "red-bogey" could not fit in. So they just whisked the Kabaka off in a plane to comfortable London quarters and that's that. It must be remembered that the Kabaka is no "left revolutionary", but was only pressed by his people into asking for Buganda to be reverted to the domain of the Foreign Office as of right rather than the Colonial Office.

This is an attack not so much on the Kabaka as on the Buganda people whom the Kabaka was forced to represent—or lose their support.

If the leaders of the P.P.P. in British Guania were too "left", what fault did Lyttelton find with the Kabaka? Was he too "right"?

We think this is a lesson that can well be taken by those who, well-intentioned, but nevertheless think that somehow by going a bit "slower" the P.P.P. could have brought benefits for the people while at the same time fooling Lyttelton that they weren't—that they were just good statesmen like Bustamente, Gomes and Manley, and Nkrumah of the Gold Coast. Indeed, it is worth while noticing that Lyttelton has not moved into action to send gunboats and troops to that "model" colony where investigations have been going on concerning charges of corruption and bribary involving high ministers including Nkrumah.

No, its only when you champion the rights of the common people against the big foreign and local plunderers that you run the risk of being deposed.

STAND FIRM BY GUIANA

— says JOSHUA of ST. VINCENT

EVERY West Indian must rally to the support of the Guianese against Imperialism. Intimidation will only serve to forge a feeling of unity that will survive long after this crisis is forgotten.

Hon. E. T. Joshua, member of the Legislative and Executive Council of St. Vincent and President of the People's Political Party of that island, made these two points the crux of the talk he delivered to the Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) in November last year.

"What is democracy in the West Indies?" he asked. "To me it could be better described as 'the mockery-we-see'.

"We awake as if from a stupor to find that our very elementary democratic rights are taken from us. Bans are imposed on West Indians travelling to and from various territories, the Guianese have had their Constitution suspended, and we look across the waters to Kenya and find that what the British imperialists are doing there were the same things they condemned the Nazis for doing.

Propaganda

"The British people", he continued, "are fed on the propaganda of the capitalist press representing vested interests in the colonies, and so many are ignorant of the real conditions there. I have not got enough fingers to count the struggles of the British working class for a better way of life," he went on, "and, for this reason, we need their support in our fight for better conditions in the colonies."

Referring to Manley and Bustamente, and to Grantley Adams of Barbados, he declared:

"Colonial governors have got so accustomed to seeing the people deprived of good virile leadership that whenever a son of the soil gets up to make a move they automatically put every obstacle in his way. It seems that only the lapdogs of imperialism can prosper . . . but the dawn is breaking and more and more West Indians are taking their place in the struggle.

Bosses' Rights

"The action of the imperialists in British Guiana was designed to secure the rights of the capitalists over the workers. This was demonstrated when the Guiana P.P.P. moved to secure recognition of representative trade unions there. We all know what has happened since . . . "

Comrade Joshua concluded by commending the CLC.(L.B.) on the fine job they were doing. He called upon all present to give the organisation their wholehearted support "in the interest of united and independent West Indies . . . "

GUIANA'S LOYAL OPPOSITION

ON December 27th the Governor announced the appointment of the Interim Government which will continue until elections are permitted. The Governor nominated 24 persons to sit in the Legislative Council and an Executive of seven. The Executive includes three businessmen, two persons who were defeated at the last elections (one lost his deposit), the former Financial Secretary and the Leader of the Opposition in the deposed House of Assembly.

The Legislative Council includes the Manager of the Sugar Producers' Association and the directors of several Companies, five defeated candidates (four of whom lost their deposits at the last elections), two civil servants and the members of the opposition in the deposed House of Assembly. Sitting on the Executive and the Legislative Council are the Attorney General, Financial Secretary and the Colonial Secretary. The People's Progressive Party issued a press statement—

"The Party did not expect any of its representatives to be nominated to the Interim Government and would not have acceded to its members being nominated to the Legislature since it is commonly known that we have always fought against the nominated system. It is a decadent and bad form of government which is formed without the consent or choice of the people. It is a reflection on the ability of any people to choose rightly and well. Consequently, ever since our policy and programme were formulated, we have gone on record against the nominated system.

To this principle, as indeed to all our principles, we shall always firmly adhere. Sir Alfred's (the governer) refusal to nominate any P.P.P. members was not, however, due to our stand on this high and laudable principle. It was due, as he put it, to the fact that 'none of them has had the courage to openly declare himself or herself as opposed to communist influence which presently dominates the Party'.

C.N. FUND

COMRADES, December total is only £3.9.9d—the lowest it's ever been since we launched the Fund in September.

I call upon all those with collecting cards to remember those friends who gave their sixpences and shillings in October, the month when we collected £11.7.11d, and see if we cannot reach a similar figure again.

Our special November issue has meant a very big outlay. Help make up for this in February! We must keep our paper going.

Send donations to

Anne Simms,
C.N. Fighting Fund,
41 Eresby Road, N.W.6

I CLENCH MY FIST

You come in warships terrible with death
I know your hands are red with Korean blood
I know your finger trembles on a trigger
And yet I curse you—stranger khaki clad!

British soldier, man in khaki
Careful how you walk,
My ancestor Accabre
Is groaning in his grave.
At night he wakes and watches
With fire in his eye
Because you march upon his breast
And stamp upon his heart.

Although you come in thousands from the sea
Although you walk like locusts in the street
Although you point your gun straight at my heart
I clench my fist above my head! I sing my song of freedom!

By MARTIN CARTER, WORKER-POET, P.P.P. LEADER. ONE OF THE IMPRISONED FIVE.

There were no issues for December and January due to heavy production of special November Anniversary No.

Big Welcome for Jagan and Burnham in India

BIG welcomes have greeted Cheddi Jagan and L. F. S. Burnham, deposed leaders of the Guiana Government throughout their tour in India.

Their plane touched down at New Delhi shortly after midnight on November 20th, and as it taxied to a stop, cries of " Jagan Zindabad!" and " Burnham Zindabad!" from the people rent the air.

At a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Nehru in the Central Hall of Parliament, Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham addressed members of both Houses of Parliament. He appealed to the people of India to extend their fullest support to the freedom struggle of the people of Guiana.

Mr. Burnham expressed confidence in the ultimate victory of the people over " Colonial Obscurantism " and said his people had learnt a great deal from the struggles waged by the Indian people.

JANET JAGAN SAYS

" Here things go on as usual. Our activities are sharply cultailed, but we persist. The newspapers and Church are violent, but seem to have little effect. We have been checking on our support all over the country, and find it **" solid "**. The Party is in a firm position and we have much more sympathy because of what has happened."

The "Hindustan Standard" of the 24th November 1953 reports the following comments by Premier Nehru: "Anyone with any degree of wisdom would naturally like to encourage the growth of people there not only for the people's good but for the good of the world. But unfortuately where vested interests are concerned it is very difficult for them to see things in the proper light or perspective."

In Delhi also, the P.P.P. leaders addressed Congress Workers of Delhi, students of Delhi University and a meeting of the Council of World Affairs. They spoke to students of D.A.V. College at Kanpur, attended a reception on behalf of different political organisations, and shortly before leaving for Allahabad they received a telegram from the Mayor of Calcutta informing that a civic reception was arranged for them.

Sincere Sympathy

In Calcutta a committee was set up to make arrangements for their visit. The committee issued a statement which said: "Naturally as a people who have stubbornly and ceaselessly fought against colonial rule for more than half a century, we have sincere sympathy and support for the people of British Guiana in their fight for national self-determination. A public meeting has been arranged on December 7th at 5 p.m. under the presidency of the Mayor of Calcutta so that the citizens may accord a fitting reception to the two leaders. We invite the citizens of Calcutta to muster strong at this reception meeting". The Mayor said that it was unfortunate that the Labour leaders in Britain did not give full support.

Still Restricted

Shortly after midnight, January 13th, the Governor ordered the release of the four P.P.P. men who were detained at Atkinson Field since October 24th. They are restricted to remain in the area of their residence and must report to the police twice a week. A similar order was served on Janet Jagan, General Secretary; Ramkarran, former member of the House of Assembly; Edwin Ramsarran and Eric Huntley.

GUIANA FIGHTS BACK WITH OPERATION BOYCOTT

FOLLOWING the arrival of troops in British Guiana and the suspension of the Constitution, the People's Progressive Party has inaugurated a campaign of non-co-operation, non-violence and boycott. They keep urging people to remain calm.

The non-co-operation campaign began with a strike call which was effective on all the sugar estates in the Colony. The city workers did not respond, due mainly to the fact that the Essential Services Act, which covers the nature of employment of most, would have caused them to lose their jobs by striking. Sugar estate strikes lasted about three weeks, with two estates refusing to go back to work until after approximately a month. These two estates are in the Corentyne, where Dr. Jagan was born.

Next move of the non-co-operation campaign was the use of the boycott. It began with a boycott of British goods, but since the country of origin of goods could not be easily distinguished, it became necessary to place the boycott against the big merchants who had taken open sides against the Party. Therefore, the slogan became: "BOYCOTT WATER STREET". This has mainly hit Booker Bros, McConnell & Co., and Fogarty's (a Director of Fogarty's, Mr. St. Dare, was one of the United Democratic Party's delegation to England). The boycott has been effective and has injured their retail trade. A second act in the campaign: "NO CONSTITUTION, NO CHRISTMAS" had been launched, urging the people not to buy heavily for Christmas in view of the many injustices.

COCA-COLA HIT

Another aspect of the boycott was a special appeal to boycott Coca-Cola. This was brought into the campaign because the Coca-Cola company handed over its lorries to assist the troops when they came to B.G. This boycott, too, has been effective, and there is a marked reduction in sales.

In view of the nature of the P.P.P's. campaign and its specific instructions to the Guianese people there have been no incidents of violence. However, there has been deliberate provocation by the police on many occasions.

At Buxton, birthplace of the Hon. Sydney King, a P.P.P. leader, police baton charged and clubbed members of a public meeting which had been called only after police permission was granted.

Small Notice Draws Big Crowd

MR. ASHTON CHASE, acting leader of the deposed P.P.P. Parliamentary Group received police permission for a meeting of the members on January 5th to discuss the Constitution Commission boycott. A small press release drew a crowd of over 5,000 who lined the streets near the meeting place to wave and cheer their leaders.

A lorry-load of police armed with batons was rushed to the scene, but the crowd remained in an orderly manner. While the former members were conferring inside the office the police came and revoked the permission informing members that they must disperse immediately or force would be used against them.

The demonstration of solidarity with the deposed leaders illustrated vividly the tremendous support and sympathy the Party holds. In contrast to this spontaneous demonstration, a scanty crowd assembled on the same day to witness the opening of the nominated (Interim Government) Legislative Council.

More reports coming into Party Headquarters indicate that the Party won over one dozen village elections. It received 100% victory in the Bloomfield-Letter Kenny elections in the Corentyne district.

Lyttelton's B.G. Commission

THREE men representing the British Imperial Government are now "ENQUIRING" in British Guiana, on the appointment of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, M.P. Their Secretary is a Mr. R. E. Radford, a publicly admitted servant of the Colonial Office.

Look at the background of these individuals: SIR JAMES ROBERTSON, K.B.E., born October 27th, 1899. This man's career will stamp him as one of the ruling class of the British people. He is from a family who was acceptable at Merchiston Castle School and Balliol College, Oxford University. This fitted him in later years for the most important and highest posts in Imperialism's military and civil service.

At Oxford he appears to have excelled at Rugger. After the First World War he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Black Watch Regiment of the British Army; next step—the Sudan Political Service (1922).

This is a typical background to officials who have been appointed District Commissioners in Britain's colonial territories. He has even been a Deputy Governor in the Gezira Province of the Sudan and is frequently associated with the much publicised cotton growing scheme in that area. This is the Tory version of co-operation in the Empire.

This career puts the Chairman of Lyttelton's commission in the right perspective. It is not mysterious, therefore, why the P.P.P. has firmly stood by its boycott.

★ ★ ★

Robertson's colleagues include SIR DONALD EDWARD JACKSON, no new figure to the people of Bookers' Guiana.

From secondary education in Guiana, Jackson went on in the mid-20's to take a Bachelor of Laws degree at London University and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1927.

The barrister Jackson went on to practise in Guiana. sparing time to marry the eldest daughter of the late Walter Augustus Reynolds. Soon he was on the way up the legal ladder to be a magistrate in 1931, Acting Assistant Attorney General in 1933, Chief Justice Leeward and Windward Islands, and a Judge of the West Indian Court of Appeal in 1950.

In this setting one can understand Lyttelton's choice for a second commissioner. Britain's Secretary of State for the Colonies might know nothing of colonial affairs and good politics, but as a defender of profits in the business world he is second to none.

★ ★ ★

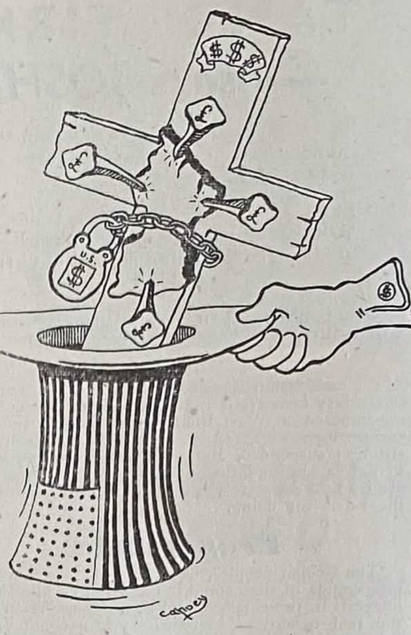
Now for the "enfant terrible", **"Brother" GEORGE WOODCOCK,** Assistant Secretary of the British T.U.C.

This odd by-product of the British labour movement started work in the cotton mills of Lancashire at the age of 12 years. The depressing conditions there soon swept him along into the workers' organisation and he joined up with the now Amalgamated Weavers' Association. This is one of the smaller trade unions of this type bearing no special history of ultra-militancy. From 1922 to 1927 he was an official of this body, making sure not to blot his copybook. Recognition was soon forthcoming and by 1929 he was off to Ruskin College on a T.U.C. Scholarship, then in 1930 to New College, Oxford University.

This is the type of trade union working-class education that sent "Brother" Woodcock to the Research Department of the T.U.C., which is the base of their Economic Committee.

Woodcock's reputation is such that the "Sunday Observer" (6/11/49) credits him as the architect of "the policy of a complete stop on wages" which was operated by the T.U.C. during the life of the late Labour Government. Mass revolt of the rank and file reversed this policy and Woodcock, who was expected to be a successor to Labour Lord Citrine, suffered another rebuff.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, commonly known as "the splitters", know their friends. Lionel Luckhoo. Grantley Adams and George Woodcock. He visited Santa Domingo in 1951 as a delegate of one of their reconnoitring missions, and by 1953 earned the grace of the Tory Government in the Coronation Honours List with a C.B.E.



British Guiana nailed to the cross

P.P.P. STATEMENT ON COMMISSION

Why Boycott?

ON the eve of the arrival of the "Robertson" Constitution Commission, we wish to announce that after full and careful consideration of all the circumstances, the People's Progressive Party see no useful purpose will be served in making representation to the Commission, and have consequently decided to boycott the Commission.

In suspending the Constitution on October 9th last, the Colonial Office made the following declaration: "H.M.'s Government has decided that the Constitution of British Guiana must be suspended to prevent Communist subversion of the Government and a dangerous crisis both in public order and economic affairs. The necessary Order in Council will shortly be laid before Parliament and an **independent** Commission of Enquiry appointed to 'report on what has happened' and to recommend a revised Constitution." The terms of reference of the Commission have been announced as "in the light of the circumstances which made it necessary to suspend the Constitution of British Guiana, to consider and to recommend what changes are required." It is clear as daylight therefore that in the terms of reference given to the Robertson Commission, Her Majesty's Government has departed from what was obviously a promise held out to the people of B.G. We are shocked at this shameful betrayal of trust which belittle the British sense of justice and fair play in the eyes of our people.

Farce

The Commission, according to its terms of reference, faces its task with an acceptance of the reasons for the suspension of the Constitution as being well founded. It is precluded from enquiring into those circumstances which gave rise to the suspension and determining whether the suspension was in fact justified. The Secretary of State for the Colonies' refusal to extend the terms of reference in the light of gross inaccuracies in the accusations against the elected representatives of the people circumscribes the work of the Commission and reduces it to a farce.

Mr. Oliver Lyttelton by his pronouncements in and out of the House of Commons has shown that he has already made up his mind as to the type of Constitution British Guiana should have. Nothing we can say will alter his already well laid plans to limit the power of the people's representatives in the interest of his monopolistic friends. It would therefore follow from his pronouncements that the Commission is merely a camouflage to give appearance that justice is being done. The weak composition of the Commission lends weight to this view.

The P.P.P. see no valid reason for the suspension of the Constitution and the deposing of the freely elected representatives of the people. In the circum-

continued on page 5

Sugar Union Support

continued from page 1

Points from its demands for general improvement for the sugar workers include:—

(1) The wages at each estate to be brought up into line with the rate paid on the estate which has the highest rates within each grade.
(2) Overtime rates after eight hours on week days at time-and-a-half or rate-and-a-half, and on Sundays and Public Holidays double time or double rate.
(3) Vacation leave of 14 days per year for daily paid and task workers, and 21 days for weekly paid workers.

Members consulted

These demands were worked out by the union after conferences with the membership on various estates. The Union has circulated these proposals to the other Unions claiming to represent sugar workers, proposing that an effort should be made to reach agreement. Copies have also been circulated among the workers asking for further suggestions.

Contrary to Bustamante's policy of compromising with the Sugar Manufacturers to the detriment of the workers, the Sugar and Agricultural Workers Union have already proved that with honest leaders they intend to strive to improve the lot of the workers they represent.

Ever since the split in the once "progressive" P.N.P. with its affiliate the T.U.C., Jamaicans have looked for an alternative to these now reactionary groups.

Delegates walk out

The Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions was formed following a walk-out of over 40 delegates to the August congress of the Trades Union Congress. Disgusted above all by the barefaced "fixing" and bullying by which the Hill brothers sought to direct Congress, these delegates have formed a real worker's union, so long needed in Jamaica.

There are many examples of the "undemocratic" ways which the Hill brothers ran the Congress.
As President of the T.U.C., Hill made ii noticeable that persons who were not elected in accordance with the Constitution were given delegates' credentials so that they could come and vote to support the policy of the Hill brothers. For example, the Municipal Branch delegates were chosen at a meeting held without proper notices at N.L.P. headquarters instead of the usual place, and the acting chairman of the Branch was not allowed to preside at the meeting although he tried to do so.

The Water Commission Branch held no meeting but delegates were appointed who could be trusted to support the Hills.

Other persons who were properly elected as delegates, but were known to be opposed to the Hills' policy, were not given their delegates' credentials.

Certain branches in the country such as the Worthy Park were wrongly informed of the number of delegates they could send or wrongly denied the right to send delegates at all on the ground of its inactivity, a ground not appled to Branches in Kingston which have not met for over a year.

Delegates and observers known to be opposed to the Hills' policy were intimidated at the outer gate of the Conference Hall by a group of paid armed gangsters. Credentials were snatched away from some persons who were pushed back into the street. Special passes were issued to political supporters and retainers of Ken Hill from West Kingston, who are not even members of the T.U.C.

In these ways the Conference was made 'safe' and a 'majority' was ensured to prevent any change of policy by a constitutional and democratic vote of the membership.

President's powers

Lastly, every Point of Order raised concerning the unconstitutional composition of the conference was overruled by Ken Hill in his capacity as President.

Workers of Sav-la-Mar, Frome and Worthy Park, formerly affiliated to the T.U.C. met and unanimously decided to secede from that union and seek membership, en bloc, in the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union of the J.F.T.U.

That Hills' selfish and bullying method has led to his unpopularity among the more "progressive" members of the T.U.C. is evident by the fact that many former branches of the T.U.C. area are arranging meetings to withdraw from the T.U.C. and form themselves into branches of the Industrial unions under which they fall.

Officers

Provisional leadership of the J.F.T.U. elected and assigned to organise the unions and convene a Congress in six months, are:—Richard Hart, ex-Vice President of the T.U.C., general secretary, Ferdinand Smith, President; Didimus Stephenson, Secretary of the Worthy Park branch T.U.C., First Vice President; Vernon Clarke, organiser and ex-executive officer of the T.U.C., Second Vice-President.

P.P.P. Statement

from page 4

stances, we are in no position to appear before the Commission and advocate as the sole premises of the Commission suggest a watering down of the "Waddington" Constitution and the curtailment of the political rights of the people of British Guiana.

Our position on the "Waddington" Constitution, on the contrary, has shown that we are clearly committed to advocote an even more advanced constitution. In our patriotic appeal, we demanded amendments to the Constitution (just suspended) along the following lines:

1. **The abolition of the Upper House.**
2. **The Governor should have no power to dissolve the House except on the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Lower House.**
3. **The vote at the age of eighteen years.**
4. **The removal of the three Civil Servant Officials, namely, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary and Treasurer from the House of Assembly and the Executive Council.**
5. **The recall by the courts of any representative for whose removal appeal is made to the Governor in Council by a two-thirds majority of the electors in the existing voters' list in respect of any district.**

They alone

If a new Constitution were needed, it is our view that the people of British Guiana should determine what the Constitution should be. As we stated in our memorandum to the Waddington Commission: "The People's Progressive Party feel that the inhabitants of B.G. like those of other parts of the world should be the final arbiters of their own destiny, and as such should be the architects of their own Constitution and not the recipients of a Constitution prepared elsewhere and by others. The latter alternative premises an inability on the part of the Guianese to choose what is best for them, and is out of keeping with modern democratic thought; advice and suggestions from outside may be helpful and, in some cases useful, but if Guianese are to be a "people" and not "colonials" they and they alone must decide on the form of Constitution they desire." Consequently, we feel that as in India and Burma, a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage, should be entrusted with the task of drafting any Constitution for British Guiana.

Insincerity

Moreover, the Commission will be deliberating at a time when freedom of meeting in British Guiana is sadly restricted by the Emergency Regulations which make it impossible for us to meet our members in particular and the public in general to ascertain their views and secure a mandate. We charge the British Government with insincerity in sending the Commission to sit at this time, without the Governor first removing the Emergency Regulations, the necessity for the existence of which is neither real nor apparent.

BILLY'S CORNER

A regular column by BILLY STRACHAN, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

Broken Bones in Dominica

LYING in hospital in London, a patient from the West Indies joined me. So what?

He broke his ankle; he fell from the roof of his house in Dominica.

X-Rays? Well the old machines in Roseau, capital of Dominica, are out of order. The new machines are not yet fitted up. Consequently the patient was pushed off to the next best place, Barbados.

Here he hired a doctor and was admitted to the best hospital in Bridgetown, chief town of Barbados. Board and lodgings now almost 7 guineas weekly, medical charges and fees additional. An orthopaedic surgeon was necessary to operate and reset the break, but at no price was one available. There just isn't any!

So the patient flies out via Canada and lands up next to me in Fulham, London.

Here's a fortunate West Indian, but this patient is not a West Indian. He represents a large British Company in Dominica and is therefore one of a handful of people of Barbados and Dominica out of a hundred thousand, privlleged to have a foot saved and to walk again.

As in the Gold Coast, the health of the common people bears no priority. New jails mushroom overnight, where hospitals and sanatoria could well stand. It is these colonies that Oliver Lyttelton and his Colonial Office set up as model administrations.

Any excuse, Governor Savage of Guiana, or my blue-eyed boy of Barbados—Grantley Adams?

Imperialism United

WHEN Premier Nehru of India welcomed Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Mr. L. F. S. Burnham of the Guiana P.P.P., imperialism's monster press moved fast and furiously.

In Bombay an English language news magazaine of obviously immense capital ran a feature story by London "Daily Express" writer Rene MacColl.

He's notorious for the way in which he moulds facts and fancy. In a story featuring anti-Jagan propaganda he says of the U.S.A.:

> "The Ku Klux Klan is a joke instead of a threat. Lynchings are no more—Uncle Tom has vanished. "In the streets of Detroit and Washington you will see well-dressed coloured people driving expensive cars—their own cars. The Negro is doing well."

Contrast this second quotation in the same paper a few pages earlier by British M.P. Roy Jenkins:

> "The relative emancipation of the Negro is the most important. He still suffers many indignities."

This is the degree of reliability one can attach to MacColl's generalisations on Jagan and Guiana.

Oh Mr. MacColl, serve your masters more proficiently than this—I could!

Trinidad—What now?

POOR Bertie Gomes has panicked his friends in Whitehall. And does Oliver Lyttelton panic! Shame, but that Colonial Office job is a real hot seat.

From Churchill to Creech-Jones until to-day—the story is the same.

The Hon. Albert Gomes, M.L.C., Minister of Labour, knows something about the mood of the workers. He strung along for some years until—the parting of the ways—Gomes to fame and fortune, Trinidad, towards Independence.

Well, the "London Times" announced that Mr. F. W. Dalley is off to Port-of-Spain to conduct an informal survey of local labour relations.

Why not read "Caribbean News" We set the pace with up-to-date information. The West Indian Independence Party have been doing a fine job. They are established as a Party enjoying wide support throughout the land of the humming-bird. Gomes calls this progress, Communism.

Heigh-ho 1954—Is Dalley going to try to pull off a subtler deal than that used in Guiana? Lyttelton the Tory has failed and so the second strings are now called in. Do-the-dirty Dalley, you haven't got a chance.

Pritt for Guiana

D. N. PRITT, Q.C., is going to British Guiana to defend the two members of the P.P.P., Fred Bowman and Nasrudeen, charged with sedition. The trial begins on March 1st, and FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED to meet the bare minimum expenses of Mr. Pritt's air travel. For that eminent Barrister who has travelled from one end of the world to another wherever colonial people needed his legal aid, has magnanimously declined to charge for his legal services in this case.

This charge of sedition against two P.P.P. members is a test case which the imperialists must not be allowed to get away with. There is none better than D. N. Pritt for this occasion, but the P.P.P. cannot afford £400 at this time. THEY ARE DEPENDING ON YOU FOR THIS SUM. DO NOT FAIL THESE COURAGEOUS PEOPLE UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF GUIANA IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED. SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO :Guiana Defence Fund, 16 Soho Square, London, W.1.

BOSSES UNDERSTAND THIS LANGUAGE

Kingston, Jamaica.

OVER 400 civilian employees at the War Department, Up-Park-Camp, went on strike here recently against the long delay in implementing the new wage rates and other **improved working conditions agreed on by the** Department and their union—the B.I.T.U., **early last year.**

The men disobeyed the Union leaders who were immediately on the scene and gave the "go back to work" command. It was not until the officials cabled the Head Office in London seeking approval for the wage contract to be ratified without further delay that they resumed working.

The resumption of work, however, does not mean the end of the struggle, for the men are angry and unless immediate action is taken on their demand strike action will be taken again.

Caribbean News
Monthly Newspaper
obtainable from
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Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests—organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW
AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

Vincentians give Joshua

Rousing Welcome

ON his return home to St. Vincent from the Third World Trade Union Congress (Vienna, 10th-21st October), Hon. E. T. Joshua, leader of the People's Political Party and member of the Legislative and Executive Councils of St. Vincent which ought to set the Colonial Office in Britain and their Vincentian stooges thinking.

In spite of Joshua's arrival at the early hour of 1.40 a.m. on Monday, 14/12/53, there were hundreds awaiting his landing and he was carried in procession through Kingstown to the singing of welcome songs. The first meeting in his constituency in Georgetown, St. Vincent was attended by over 10,000 persons. The meeting in Kingstown the capital, stopped traffic. A strongly worded protest resolution on the Guiana situation was passed. Plans have been made to hold a monster protest demonstration in the near future, to let Lyttelton and the British Government know in no uncertain manner of the indignation of West Indians against the fascist actions in Guiana.

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MEMBERS & FRIENDS WELCOME
3 Robert Street, N.W.I

LETTER BOX

WHERE WILL THE TIN GODS STAND?

THE EDITOR

AS the wife of a West Indian, I feel the right to express my horror of the outrageous colour bar practised in Bermuda, an island rightfully belonging to the coloured population as much as any other.

In a daily newspaper, I read that the bar must prevail because of the white tourist trade. And this is agreed to even by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Are these tourists so superior that they cannot mix with their fellowmen?

In Africa the situation is even worse. Can't these stupid people realise that at least 75% of the world's population is coloured. More and more each year are receiving proper education. When all these people revolt, where will the tin gods stand then in their judgment. Every person should help to make a world of peace and unity. The time is near when all will realise that the only race on earth is the Human Race.

MARJORIE AUSTIN,
Marlow, Bucks.

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EXHIBITION AND BAZAAR
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CONCERT
7-30 p.m.
Friends House, Euston Road
Saturday, 20th. February 1954

Published by Carlton Bayley, 12 Aberdeen Park, N.7.
X-Press Print, 397 Harrow Road, W.9.

Hungry Jamaicans

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March 1954

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

WEST INDIAN LABOUR EXPOSES T.U.C. TEWSON

Sir Vincent Tewson says C.L.C. (London Branch) has no support in West Indies

Rally to support Guiana

CALLING for nation-wide protests in defence of Guiana and the re-establishment of civil liberties throughout the Caribbean, Mr. Richard Hart, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress, issued a circular letter on January 25th to all affiliates.

Hart informed the affiliated bodies that a Committee had been established in Jamaica to collect funds for the P.P.P. in Guiana, reminding everyone that :

> " the eyes of the world must be focused on British Guiana and the true nature of the British Government's motive must be fully exposed."

The national protests are a response to the demands

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B. G. EX-MINISTER SUES SUPERINTENDENT

SYDNEY KING, former Minister of Communications under the P.P.P. Government, has sued the Superintendent for $25,000 for wrongful imprisonment. He and the four others had been held in the country police station until the order for their detention under the Emergency Orders was signed by the Governor. Two others have sued for $10,000 each, while Mr. King's mother has sued for trespass and damages over an incident involving a police raid on her business premises.

British Honduras Elections

LATEST reports set the date for elections as late April this year.

Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, fearful of a repetition of events in Guiana, has ordered a beauty of a Constitution, if you can give it as highfalutin a name as this.

There is to be a Legislative Council of 15 members. Lyttelton is going to permit the 60,000 people to elect 9 of these, 3 will be Lyttelton's employees, called Official Members, and 3 will be chosen or nominated by Mr. Renisson, the Governor, another of Mr. Lyttelton's staff. The Governor has also invited a Speaker for the Legislature, normally an impartial role, and a Mr. Norman Wolfershon is reported to have accepted. That's it, 9 to 6 with the Governor's Guest to see fair play.

Higher up the scale, there is to be the Executive Council which is really the instrument of Government. This being a more exclusive Chamber, the 60,000 Hondurans will only have the right to elect 4 out of the elected 9 representatives. Of course, the THREE officials reappear and the remaining 2 will come from the original 3 chosen by Lyttleton's agent. This time the set-up is 5 to 4 in the Governor's favour !

Over and above this, Her Majesty is represented used discretionally in the interests of 'good govern- through Mr. Lyttelton by Mr. Renisson who holds the customary British RESERVED POWERS, to be used discretionally in the interests of 'good government'.

Organised Party

These are the prospects for British Honduras, whose only organised Party is the PEOPLES UNITED PARTY. Quite unlike the P.P.P. of Guiana, international fame and respect, this party is nowhere as well organised and based on people's policy.

The two schools of thought, rabid Roman Catholicism on the one hand and disorganised anti-British sentiment on the other, seems to have settled a policy of united opposition. The odds in the two Chambers have been fixed against them, but national unity and the the winning of all possible seats will go a long way to carry home the lessons of Guiana.

Constitution tricks in Barbados

Bridgetown: Sir Robert Arundell, the Governor, on February 1st, announced the inauguration of what the Colonial Office calls a Ministerial system of Government.

The Ministries have been grouped thus :

(a) Public Finance, taxation, banking and currency, education, ecclesiastical, police and general purposes.
(b) Trade, Industry and Labour.
(c) Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries.
(d) Social Services.
(e) Communications, Works and Housing.

Defence, Security, External Affairs, public relations, staff establishment, etc., still remain the preserve of the former Colonial Secretary now to be termed the Chief Secretary.

Grantley Adams, one time labour leader, now designated Premier, is credited with this comment in his first speech as a ventriloquist's doll :

> "This shows that, in spite of the failure of constitutional government in other places, there are people here who can put good government before Party."

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★ EDITORIAL ★

WRECKERS' DILEMMA

CURIOUSLY enough, the knights of the British T.U.C. have jumped in to warn their affiliated members that the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has no support from trade unions in the West Indies. The T.U.C. General Council claims that the C.L.C. is defunct.

It is true that the last congress was held as long ago as 1947 and that Grantley Adams and his union have pulled out of it.

It is true that because of bans on inter-island travel and sabotage by those who were going through the process of reversing their political stand, and who have now deserted their principles, the C.L.C. has not had a congress since 1947.

But despite some of its leader's defection, the overwhelming majority of affiliates still stand by the C.L.C. and its principles.

It was after Grantley Adams attended the Council meeting of the I.C.F.T.U. in Berlin in 1952 that he tried to disaffiliate the London Branch and make association with W.F.T.U. incompatible with membership in the C.L.C. We know how miserably he failed

The charge is made that the London Branch has no support in the West Indies. But the attempt to dissolve the London Branch was due precisely to the recognition that it was the most ardent representative in London of the trade unions and political bodies at home, and from the fear that whatever influence it had with these organisations would be a bar to Grantley's, and behind him I.C.F.T.U.'s, design for the Caribbean.

Failing to capture the C.L.C. and lead it on to the path of betrayal of the national interests of the West Indies, they now try to wreck it completely, to deny its existence and the very need for its existence.

Events, however, are proving harsh taskmasters to the wreckers, for more and more powerful movements are springing up in the West Indies and unity being forged. More and more the imperialists and their handymen shall have recourse to the only answer they can find—gunboats.

BAUXITE PLUNDER

Are British financial sharks getting indignant over the meagre returns that come to West Indians out of merciless exploitation of their resources?

This is the case it would seem from first glance at the "Daily Express" financial editor's column on Jamaica's bauxite (see reprint on page 3).

Can one imagine for a moment that the British bosses are really concerned with justice—better wages and conditions—for Jamaican workers, when they resist every move for higher wages or taxes on profits ?

Bauxite plunder has been going on for years now in British Guiana, averaging 2 million tons a year in recent years. Cheddi Jagan, speaking in the Legislative Council in 1951, revealed that the Berbice Company paid royalty of 1/- per ton, while the Demerara Bauxite Co. paid only 5d. per ton on bauxite mined from Crown lands. And because the Company owned large tracts of land on which it paid no royalty, from 1937 to 1947 British Guiana has been deprived of about $748,700.

No, British capitalists are not concerned about the wellbeing of West Indian workers. What they are worried about is that their greatest rivals are further working their way into Britain's sphere of exploitation and taking very nice pickings. The British robbers feel that they should be the 'natural' exploiters of the Jamaican people.

We have shown in every issue of this paper the huge profits they are making in the West Indies. Just one fat hog peeving at another fat hog edging in on the spoils.

But, of course, it is all put in the form of a pious outcry against Yankee robbery. Nevertheless, it helps expose both these gangs. Whether British, French, American or Dutch, they are all there for the same purpose—to squeeze us.

Not that we did not know before, but when the foreign rulers ask us, "Where would you be without us?", we can say with confidence—£1,440,000 better off in Jamaica alone, taking just this one company.

But that is not all. We are told that the market price of Jamaica's finished aluminium from 478,000 tons of bauxite is £100 million. Just imagine, and by 1955 they hope to produce 3 million tons. For British Guiana, this would amount to about £200 million.

Just think what this would mean for our impoverished people in terms of employment and prosperity, if we refined our own bauxite and sold the aluminium on the world market.

But there is just one thing holding us back—IMPERIALISM.

THEN AWAY WITH IT !

Jobs for the boys in Jamaica

IN true colonial subservience, the Jamaica Government, often spoken of as the Bustamente Government, has accepted the main recommendation of the International Bank Mission (U.S.A.).

This Government, over which Governor Sir Hugh Foot has overriding powers, has offered its first lucrative opportunities to an English couple, Professor I. R. and Mrs. Hicks.

Both economists of Oxford University eminence must snigger at their terms of appointment which, as reported in the "London Times", is to:

". . . review the incidence and sources of taxation . . ." and "carry out a survey of existing system of finance and to make such recommendations as may be necessary."

There is no better comment that that of the Hire Car driver in Guiana, who was reported in THUNDER (January 1954) as replying to an American journalist's question on Lyttelton's Marshall Aid:

"Oh, that will line the pockets of all the big shots, like always happens here."

British Labour responds

AS the fight for the restoration of Guiana's constitution gained momentum, support from British Trade Unions increased.

At a meeting of the Wood Green and Tottenham Labour Party Constituency, a resolution was carried unanimously which said:

"This party, convinced of the importance of democracy and international co-operation in the world to-day, strongly condemns the undemocratic action of the British Government in British Guiana."

The resolution went on to urge the "immediate reinstatement of the constitution and withdrawal of armed forces, and the immediate granting of the necessary funds for the economic development of the country."

This is but one of hundreds of resolutions which have been submitted to the government by Labour Party constituencies, Trade Unions, Trade Councils, Co-ops, the Communist Party, and other organisations throughout the length and breadth of Britain.

In the Tees-side Youth Parliament a motion calling on the government to "withdraw all troops from British Guiana and restore the Constitution," was passed by thirty-four votes to eighteen. It had the support of the Labour League of Youth and the Communists, and was the result of a lively debate on British Guiana.

Defy Ban

In one month since action was taken against Guiana, over 180 trade unions sent protests to the government. They include resolutions from such unions as the Transport and General Workers Union, the West Brompton branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Electrical Trade Union and their branches in Clapham, East Ham, London West, Eltham, North Woolwich, Tottenham, Peckham, Southwark, etc. The National Union of Journalists (Central London), The Islington and Hammersmith Trades Council, The Automobile Engineers Union, Fire Brigade Union, Tobacco Workers Union, and others.

Labour Party branches, despite the ban by the Executive Council which sought to deny to Jagan and Burnham a platform, have added their support and over 100 branches have recorded their protests at the action of the British government in Guiana.

SURINAM

— is it a colony

Many delegates who had been fearful of offending the U.S. on the Puerto Rican question were braver when it came to the Dutch. By vote of 33 to 13, with 8 abstentions, the General Assembly declared that Surinam (Dutch Guiana) was still a colony and that the Dutch were therefore obliged to continue furnishing the UN with reports on it.

The Dutch, however, repeated their announcement of previous years that they have no intention of doing so.

(From "Latin America Today")

GUIANA NEWS BRIEFS

From JANET JAGAN

A petition signed by over 5,000 persons was presented to Governor Savage in Georgetown, British Guiana on January 14th. It demanded the removal of restrictions on the movement of 8 P.P.P. members who were served with orders limiting their movement to the area of their residence, and requiring them (under the Emergency regulations) to report to the nearest Police Station twice weekly. The signature campaign lasted only 24 hours in order to reach the governor before his departure to London on the 15th.

★ ★

Simultaneous with the signing of the petition, police squads raided the headquarters of the P.P.P. three times on the day the four Party members were released from detention. Crowds swarmed the Party Office to sign the petition, which on one raid was seized by the police.

Around 8 p.m. the same evening, twenty-four persons were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and wheeling bicycles on the pavement. George Robertson, former Member of the State Council (P.P.P. nominated) spent the night at Police headquarters, being charged with wheeling his bicycle on the sidewalk. All pleaded not guilty, but nine were convicted and fined.

Fraternal tribute

In a statement issued by the Party on the release from detention of Messrs. Rory Westmaas, second Vice-Chairman of the P.P.P.; Sydney King, former Minister of Communications and Works and Assistant Secretary of the P.P.P.; Martin Carter, Executive Member of the P.P.P.; and Ajodha Singh, former Member of the House of Assembly, it stated:

"The Peoples Progressive Party expresses fraternal tribute to the way organisations in the West Indies, Great Britain, Latin America, the U.S.A., Africa and other countries who have encouraged and sustained the freedom-loving Guianese people in their selfless struggle for the release of their comrades. This is also a signal victory for the people of Guiana who sent in petitions to the Governor for their releases . . .

"It is another of the victories being won all over the world in the struggle for the relaxation of international tensions and for national independence of the Colonial peoples. All thanks to the forces fighting for humanity. This Party, on this occasion calls for an intensification of the campaign to remove criminal restrictions placed on these members, the Party Secretary and other leading members of the Party. All strength and further successes to the people led by the Peoples Progressive Party. Our cause is invincible. We shall triumph."

★ ★

The residents of the East Bank, Demerara River have sent a petition to the Acting Governor expressing no confidence in the Interim Government.

★

The P.P.P has embarked on an intensive house-to-house registration of municipal voters. Voting for the Georgetown Town Council is on a restrictive franchise based on property or rental qualifications. At present, Mr. Burnham, Chairman of the P.P.P. is an elected member of the Council. The Party hopes to put up several candidates for the December elections.

Youth leader

Mr. Benn, Secretary of the banned Pioneer Youth League and an Executive Member of the P.P.P. was taken off a boat at Bartica and searched by police, who released him soon after. Following Mr. Benn's visit to Bartica, police raided several houses.

★ ★

According to the P.P.P.'s estimate of the boycott on the Sunday Argosy of January 24th, it was a success. The editor of the newspaper however, came out with a bald denial of the effect of the boycott, stating that it was a failure.

Let's have a cultural centre in London

THE idea of a Co-operative Movement is by no means new. But the application of such an idea in making further efforts to unite West Indians was first conceived and put into practice by the C.L.C. Many of you will remember that in 1951 this much needed step was taken, resulting in the formation of the Caribbean Co-op, which is registered under the Friendly Societies' Act.

It was formed jointly with the League of Coloured Peoples. The affairs are being handled by a provisional Management Committee which was elected at the first General Meeting.

It is common knowledge that success in any worthwhile venture cannot be achieved without teething troubles and the Caribbean Co-op has already had its share. The first problem was the raising of sufficient share capital to provide suitable premises. In order to keep things moving, the need for capital is still great.

By CHRIS COWARD

The Secretary, Billy Strachan, was in hospital for a long time and this did not help matters very much.

Until very recently, the Co-op was nothing more than an idea. There was nothing in existence which we could point to and say to people—that is what you're putting your money into.

Now, however, there is a building at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1, which was acquired in the name of the League of Coloured Peoples.

We feel that this provides us with a much better opportunity to attract people to the idea of a cultural centre and to take out shares in the Co-op.

New hopes

The perseverance necessary to achieve success is not lacking, and this New Year has brought us new hopes and determination. After a long dark night comes the dawn and daylight is just ahead. We now have the possibility of suitable premises and the Secretary has returned after his long illness with renewed vigour.

The need for unity among West Indians, and all who are interested, becomes greater today than ever before. Why wait until the near future to start managing our own affairs? Why not now? Let us seize this golden opportunity to build an institution which we and those who come after us can be proud of. Every shareholder is a part owner.

Cost of shares is 10/- each and can be obtained on application to the address below. Join now and make this a year of success.

For further details apply to: The Secretary, Caribbean Co-operative Cultural Committee, 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

THAT MEASLY SHILLING

Reprinted from Daily Express, February 22nd. 1954, — City Editor's column.

THE Americans are spreading a tale of the prosperity they bring to Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey. Not in England, but in sunny Jamaica, whose three counties share those names.

The Jamaican offshoot of the £130 million U.S.—bossed Reynolds Metal giant has issued a progress report to show the locals how well off the company's bauxite mines have made them.

The propaganda sheet claims that the Jamaicans benefited by £432,000 last year from the 478,000 tons of bauxite ore the offshoot shipped home to its parent. That equals 18s. a ton.

But see how the American figure men arrived at that. They include taxes paid by the firm's workers and money they spent in Jamaican shops.

They even allow for spending by the American bosses and their wives while junketing in Jamaica.

There is one figure the pamphlet does not give. The actual royalty paid for each ton of ore mined. It is a mere 1s. No wonder the Americans keep quiet about it.

On that basis the Americans paid but £24,000 last year for tapping Jamaica's bauxite riches. Yet at the world price of £3 a ton the ore was worth all of £1,440,000.

And when the ore is shipped home to father, each three tons is turned into one of shiny aluminium, which sells for a rich £172 a ton.

True, the difference is far from being all profit. But no one can cay the Americans are overdoing it with that 1s. a ton. Especially since the Reynolds parent made a £1,000,000 profit for its shareholders last year.

The U.S. firm could well afford to give the Jamaicans more. And it is the job of Governor Sir Hugh Foot to see that they do.

That shilling should be raised to a figure much nearer the true value of the bauxite to the parent company.

If the Americans wish to tap the mineral riches of the Empire—they must pay a fair price for the privilege.

Trinidadians are joining struggle for Peace

From HUGH SKINNER

AFTER six months of discussions and exchange of correspondence the Trinidad and Tobago Peace Committee has launched its signature collection campaign.

Following a policy of internationalism, the T.T.P,C. first contacted the World Council of Peace in Prague, Czechoslovakia, requesting information on the World Peace Movement and informing them of our own Committee. The B.G. Peace Committee was then contacted with a request for details of their activity. As a result the "Appeal for a Five Power Peace Pact" was formulated between both Committees and signature collection immediately launched in British Guiana.

Other progressive organisations in the Caribbean were also contacted forwarding information on the campaign and suggesting ways of launching the "Appeal" in St. Vincent and Barbados.

The West Indian Independence Party, two members of which are permanent delegates on the Committee, constantly explains the implications of war to colonial territories and the significance of the Peace question.

At a meeting held at the San Fernando Town Hall on November 10th, 1953, a good cross section of the population attended. This date is recognised in Trinidad as "Memorial Day" for those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars.

The wording of the leaflet deserves quotation: "Join the PEOPLE'S FRONT against WAR. Too often have nations won wars and lost peace. Civilisation must be protected. HUMANITY MUST BE SAVED. PROTEST COLONIAL AGGRESSION".

Speakers at this meeting included an Indian Borough Councillor, a well-known anti-communist business man, a trade union secretary, the secretary of the Peace Committee and two leaders of the W.I.I.P. The majority of speakers thoroughly exposed the war-mongering policy of Britain, France and America being pursued in colonial territories and expressed their support for the Trinidad and Tobago Peace Committee.

Local groups

Now that signature and money collections are under way, many of the plans for publishing peace literature and maintaining and expanding contact will be realised.

The Peace Committee is pursuing a policy of forming local peace groups and in this respect the World Peace Council has been most generous in supplying information including such literary works as Li Sao and Chou Yuan, also documents on the Korean and Indo-China conflicts.

In the meantime the Committee calls upon every conscious citizen, every organisation to support its work and to appoint delegates to the Committee so that its representative authority may be made as broad as possible. For only by a universal understanding of the repercussions of war on our own economic and social lives, of the gigantic work being done in other countries to preserve peace, can the extreme urgency of the situation dawn on our people and find expression in mass action.

Live and love

Mr. John La Rose, Executive Member of the Trinidad and Tobago Peace Committee has just reported to the Committee on the work and decisions of the last session of the World Peace Council held in Vienna last November. The Peace Committee will soon be considering what action to take to implement the decisions of the Council's meeting.

Let Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards all Men be realised.

Let us save our children from the horrors of tears, bombs and starvation.

Let us assert our right to live and love in a world free from hysteria and suspicion!

COLONIAL DAY CONCERT

An appreciative audience of over 500, mostly colonials, attended the Colonial Day Concert at Friends' House, London on February 20th.

It was a fitting tribute to the organisers, artistes, and the growing importance of colonials in the struggle against imperialism.

During the day over 200 people attended the exhibition. They saw handicraft, photos and paintings from Cyprus, Mauritius and Viet Nam, and other countries. Cyprus, Malaya, West Indies, India, Britain, and Ceylon contributed to the night's entertainment with singers, dancers and a clever juggler.

Mr. David Larder, former officer in the British Army serving in Kenya, gave a graphic and moving description of the hardships and atrocities committed on the Kenya African. Ashamed of the things he had to do, Dave Larder got himself court-martialled and was dismissed from the Army.

Little Rose Marie has already appeared in two shows at the Metropolitan Theatre, Edgware Road, and in others outside London. Solo singing of calypsoes and sambas is a speciality of hers. Eight-year-old Rose Marie is the daughter of Bernice Waul, well-known C.L.C. member.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, she came to England in 1951 and is now learning ballet, tap dancing, and acrobatics at the Flavia School of Dancing in Kilburn. Rose Marie also takes piano lessons and seems well set for a career.

Have you a talented youngster you would like us to know about? Just send a photograph and a few words about what he or she can do or is studying. Send to: The Editor, Caribbean News, 3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

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Crusading Churchman

From D. Mitchell, Jamaica
and C.P.N.S., Trinidad

"THERE must be conflict between Communism and Christianity. I don't mean on the platform or on paper." This was the glad tiding brought to the Jamaican people by Dr. C. R. Garbett, Archbishop of York, during his tour of the West Indies last December.

He was given headline publicity in the columns of the local press. In British Guiana he condemned "aggressive atheistic communism" (headlines from "Port-of-Spain Gazette").

At the City Council in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, where a civic reception was held for him, the "good-will mission" of this dignitary was not considered so important by the Councillors. Most of them stayed away from the reception.

Lecturing in Jamaica on "Christianity and Communism" to two thousand people, Dr. Garbett took up the old witch-hunt story, ending dramatically with the charge of Soviet aggression and a call to Christians to be prepared for the conflict between Communism and Christianity.

Pamphlets

He tried to convince his listeners that religion is persecuted in the People's Democracies and China. But the progressives distributed thousands of pamplets carrying an interview given by Hon. Sydney King of British Guiana on what he saw in Hungary, including complete freedom of religion.

Speaking of Primitive Communism, Dr. Garbett said it worked very well among the small groups of people who practised it voluntarily. He declared that in "those days" all properties were held in common by all the people who were very happy.

But he was very annoyed that efforts were now being made by a "subversive international fellowship" to enslave the peoples of the world with this materialistic doctrine, which is "diametrically opposed to Christianity". He did not, however, give the Christian plan for happiness of the common people.

When he said that no member of the Church can be a faithful member of the Communist Party, the devout Archbishop neglected to tell his hearers that millions of faithful Christians in Eastern Europe, Italy, Britain and elsewhere, have at the same time managed to be faithful members and supporters of that Party.

When the Archbishop realised that he had said nothing in defence of what he represented, it was time to offer a word of prayer for the poor people of Jamaica.

FOOD FIT FOR A QUEEN

—Hunger for Jamaicans

THIS was the menu for the Queen when she visited Jamaica on her Commonwealth Tour late last year ;

Clear Turtle Soup from Grand Cayman
Lobster from Port Royal
Beef from Pleasant Hill Pasture
Ackees from Linstead Market
Yampis from Jamaica Cultivation
Broccoli from King's House Gardens
Planters Ice Box Pudding
Cassava Wafers from Pedro Plains
Coffee from the Blue Mountains.

Those responsible for the Queen's welfare certainly chose dishes of an all-Jamaican character. Undoubtedly the Queen must sample the local foods of her humble local loyal subjects.

But how many of these local subjects ever see anything like it ?

The only thing typical about this menu for a Queen is that all the items are produced in Jamaica. We think the Queen would have rather spoiled her appetite if she saw anything like the typical menu for masses of unemployed and under-employed Jamaicans.

While Her Majesty and small sections of local colour dined on this splendid fare, hundreds of Jamaicans were vomiting to their deaths, due to malnutrition and starvation.

Still baffling

"Public Opinion" reports that after two years' intensive research work and an expenditure of £17,000, several research specialists confessed they were baffled as to the cause of the dread "vomiting sickness" which every year takes a toll of lives.

It may be recalled, however, that two years ago the chief pathologist at the West Indian University College laid the cause to plain malnutrition due to starvation.

Quoting from "Public Opinion" :

"Emphasizing that children are largely the victims of Vomiting Sickness, and suffer a higher mortality rate as a result, Dr. Williams said in the report : 'In Jamaica there is a serious neglect of child life and health. Water supply often comes from an unprotected pond or stream; the children often scrounge and scavenge for food of their own. Often they suffer from unrecognised malnutrition, infestations and infections . . . '."

Nevertheless they go through twists and turns trying to show that it's some new disease, spending thousands of pounds in the process.

We can tell them what's wrong, if they are really concerned. Most Jamaicans know the reason. We say, give the people food and you will see the last of this "baffling" disease.

We are not saying that Queen Elizabeth should not eat such good food, for we are sure that even more expensive delicacies can be provided at Buckingham Palace or any of the elite restaurants in England.

But we feel it only right that the Jamaican people should have the opportunity also to eat in adequate quantity these wholesome products of their native land. Not to have their kids forced by hunger to "scavenge" for food.

What a striking illustration of the wealth and comforts enjoyed by a few over the povety, hunger, disease and suffering of the masses!

APEX (Trinidad) OILFIELDS

OILFIELD workers this year produced 2,986,000 barrels of crude oil, and 4,058,000 gallons of casing lead gasoline. Yes, and this was only from 389 wells cornered by this foreign company whose heart and soul is embedded in London's stock exchange.

They unashamedly admit their current assets which total £5,222,789—($W.I. 20 million) including 10 million West Indian dollars in cash—their current liabilities, a mere £1,024,272.

Net profit was £584,206 (over 2,000,000 W.I. dollars) after paying a tax of £810,000. The total dividend was 50 per cent, which virtually means, at this rate within two years all the invested capital would be repaid. Nevertheless these foreign invaders would proclaim their continued ownership ad infinitum with Trinidad providing labour.

Rojas, what's your answer for Rance ?

BOOK WORLD

More drastic conclusions

THANKS to the struggles of our peoples for wages and improved living standards we have won a place in the sun—or is it the spotlight?

Mr. Henriques, a lecturer in Social anthropology at the University of Leeds has responded to the widespread demand to know our people in the recent publication, **FAMILY AND COLOUR IN JAMAICA** published by EYRE & SPOTTISWOODES.

In a very simply written text, the author records many details of social life as obtained by a foreign investigator. Whether Mr. Henriques realises that he has been treated as a foreigner or not, I am not quite certain.

In fact the publishers in their sales talk present the book by implication as a NATIVE study. This is a major misunderstanding if the book is to be read and the maximum benefit to be obtained from the wealth of recorded information.

The author himself tells us on page 45: "The European (foreign) investigator is at a great disadvantage in gathering data . . . Some information will be forthcoming, but much of it will be garbled and dressed to suit what the informant thinks are the ideas of the white investigator."

Like a typical bourgeois academician Henriques the anthropologist has secluded himself in the traditional ivory tower and examined the natives with his telescope.

★

He finds, "the majority of the black people who are 78.1 per cent of the total population, can be classified as the labourer-peasant group which we shall term the lower class."

This misnomer is the best indication of the attitude of Henriques to our people. He himself claims to be Jamaican born and "all members of his family rank as upper class".

This air of superiority permeates the whole book and detracts from the factual interest to be obtained from reading. As a raconteur he performs admirably. He finds a "white bias in our society", but throughout the narrative is unable to explain it.

The author strays that far, that in a chapter entitled "Contemporary Colour-Class System" he observes:

"A society where the majority of the population is coloured and black, and is held partly by its own consent in a purely social subjection by a white and fair group, which is what occurs in the Caribbean."

By now the news of British Lytteltons and events in British Guiana might have penetrated Mr. Henriques' ivory tower. Surprisingly there are flashes of insight of the society, when he discloses a real socioeconomic fact in relation to the offices and staff of the Colonial Secretary. I quote:

"On the other hand the department most closely associated with executive government is still a preserve of fair individuals, though there is a steady but slight infiltration of people who by reason of their colour, would not have obtained employment there a decade ago."

★

And still the secret evades him.

Perhaps such terms as the ravages of Imperialism are too harsh for the University Professor. One only has to refer him to his own excerpt from Sir Hans Sloane, the historian (p. 22):

". . . he (the slave) was fastened down on the ground with crooked sticks on every limb, they then applied the fire by degrees, from the feet and hands, burning them gradually up the head, whereby their pains are extravagant . . ." Here is an insight into a background which has left its effects in colonial territories today, whether Kenya, Malaya, Guiana or Jamaica. A system that has wilfully destroyed our culture. Mr. Henriques, please note.

All in all, the compilation of the facts in FAMILY AND COLOUR IN JAMAICA makes it worth reading. I believe that West Indian readers will draw more correct, if even more drastic conclusions than Henriques has done from his survey of the Jamaican scene.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.

★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.

★ There are also activities to suit all interests—organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.

★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

Grantley the Giant

SO the one-eyed Goliath has become a Premier.

It has been a sticky trail from insignificance, ignominy and oppression from rabid race-prejudice in Little England. For most of the people of Barbados, it is still ignominy and oppression. What a price to pay and how the mantle of glory must weigh heavily, as every single action is the response to severe tugging from the merciless grip in Whitehall.

The little Davids are sweating in the sun, cutting sugar canes, loading molasses for a bare subsistence, but their sweet hour has not yet come. The little Davids' brother in Guiana, also made a Premier, though for his loyalty to his people, for his antipathy to foreign imperialists, there is no blessing or title from Westminster—instead, there is a heavy steady tramp of armed troops, bringing "order and good government" to Guiana.

Among other things, the Honourable Grantley Adams, M.H.A., C.B.E., Q.C., is reported to have announced his intention of resigning his office as President of the Barbados Workers' Union, his last link with the real people who gave him power.

Grantley far from being a giant, promises only to be another Goliath.

Calypso culture

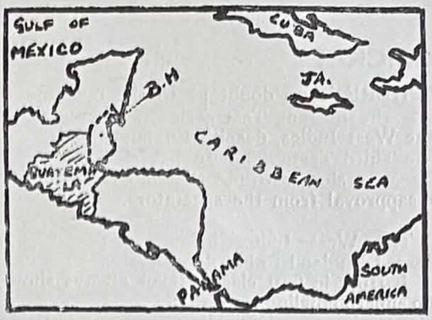
ALL our history, the story of aggression, exploitation, misery, poverty and loss of civil liberties is expressed about us in our writing, clothing, dance and song—yes the calypso today, is even given credence and respectability.

A very young and attractive correspondent, from Trinidad, let's call her Phoebe, writes this:

> "WE had a good example of how most people are reacting to the situation. From the beginning of the calypso season, a Calypsonian got up a calypso praising the government for its timely 'action'. Do you know that when he was finished singing, only about six persons clapped out of a crowd of more than 2,000."

Whai, ho! this is the voice of God, the voice of the people, so Bertie boy and your boss, 'yuh ahd bettr tek noat'.

Americans are putting pressure on Guatemala



THE resistance of Guatemala against foreign oppression, the struggle of its people and its youth for peace, national independence and a better life, increasingly wins the sympathy and solidarity of young people of the world.

Guatemala is a small country in Central America, the population of which amounts to three million the majority indigenous. It is a backward country, semi-feudal, and has an economy based on agricultural production of coffee and bananas.

Its real master and sovereign lord since the beginning of the century has been that American trust, the United Fruit Company, which possesses immense tracts of land, banana plantations, railway lines, the only port, maritime transport and much more. As a result of the inhuman exploitation of the Guatemalan people, the United Fruit Company amasses fabulous profits each year. In 1952 alone they declared a profit of 100 million dollars.

By NOEL VAZEUEZ

In 1944, the Guatemalan people destroyed the cruel dictatorship of Uhico, who was an obedient tool in the hands of the United Fruit Company and the American Legation. A democratic and patriotic government was installed in his place.

During these ten years a growing struggle has developed in order to limit the ferocious exploitation of the United Fruit Company. to repurchase national resources and, to open the way to the economic development of the country and to improve the living conditions of the working people.

Gains made

These struggles have been crowned with many successes. The proclamation of a Code of Labour, the increase in wages, the creation of social insurance, schools and hospitals have been gained. Thanks to mass popular action which could frustrate one after another infamous plots of feudal reaction and its foreign masters, democratic liberties were strengthened and extended and Guatemala entered on to the path of a policy of peace.

Meanwhile the most important victory was the proclamation of the Agrarian Reform Law, an effective application of which broke the feudal chains in the countryside and is in the act of giving land to tens of thousands of peasant and agricultural workers' families.

It is precisely the foreign companies, the most powerful feudal proprietors of the country, who are affected by the expropriation of uncultivated lands: 84,000 hectares of fallow land belonging to the United Fruit Company were given to the peasants.

Foreign monopolies will not allow their enormous profits and proprieties to be reduced, even if this serves to ease the misery of an uplift to a more human standard the life of millions of human beings. The propagators of a new war will not allow in the zones they design as their "rear areas of security" a small country which refuses to sign pacts, to concede military bases, to participate in war adventures; which repudiates all foreign intervention in its internal affairs and obliges the foreign companies to satisfy the needs of its workers.

Dulles' Threats

This is where the big campaign of slanders the American press conducts against Guatemala and its government finds its origin. Such is the reason for the ruthless speeches of Dulles and Braden who threaten open intervention in this country.

The colonialists are increasing the pressure against Guatemala and are openly preparing armed intervention against this country, counting on the help of dictatorial governments of Central America and the feudal and reactionary forces within Guatemala itself.

Guatemalan youth are rising in indignation against foreign interference. They want to be masters of their own fate in order to build a happy future in a world of peace.

Young people of Guatemala recently launched a fine proposition to celebrate in their country in October, 1954, a "Fete of Friendship of the Youth of Central America and the Caribbean".

The "Fete of Friendship" will be a great sports and cultural event in favour of peace for the youth of the regions of the Caribbean Sea. At the same time it will afford an opportunity to strengthen solidarity among the young people of Guatemala fighting so resolutely for their freedom.

(Reprinted from "February 21st.")

WEST INDIAN LABOUR

★ — continued from page 1

of the people of the West Indian territories. Through the smoke screen of lies generated by the capitalist press in Britain and the West Indies, Caribeean News has spotlighted the real reactions of the national movement in the West Indies.

On October 9th, at the height of the British people's wrath at the rape of Guiana with armed troops, the Tories' blue-eyed boy in the British labour movement "warned" their supporters of the C.L.C. and its London Branch, which was the first to spring to the defence of Guiana and its Peoples Progressive Party.

Damped down

The T.U.C. with its General Secretary, Sir Vincent Tewson, and the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party all rallied to damp down the spontaneous support that rolled into the C.L.C. London Branch's office, in the form of cash donations, messages of solidarity and requests for more news on the situation. Trade Union branches, Constituency Labour Party Branches, Co-operative Guilds and other peoples' organisations were represented.

The truth involved not only the Tories, but the unfaithful Labour Party leadership, the T.U.C. bosses and their co-operation with the insidious I.C.F.T.U.

Like the Tewsons of British labour, there are the Grantley Adams of Caribeean labour. Grantley Adams too was a prominent figure in the C.L.C. fighting for higher living standards, Federation and national independence, and was elected President of the Caribbean Labour Congress at the 1947 Conference in Jamaica.

Then British capitalism acted. Mr. Churchill's Socialists walked out of the World Federation of Trade Unions and set up the splinter group known as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Its main role to date has been to attempt to break up the national colonial movements, by bribery, lies and corruption.

Grantley Adams now started on the treadmill to fame, Paris 1948 U.N.O., Commander of the Most Excellent Order of St. Michael and St. George (by the Conservative Government) 1952, puppet Premier Barbados under a Governor, January, 1953

As a representative of the Regional body of I.C.F.T.U., known as ORIT, Adams tried in 1952 to expel the London Branch from the Caribbean Labour Congress. But after an abortive effort in which he was unable to secure a majority in his own General Council, Adams last year pulled out of the C.L.C. and with him the Barbados Workers Union.

What then is Tewson's 'bona fide' trade union movement in the Caribbean?

Well represented

Representing the P.P.P. in Guiana, the Trinidad T.U.C. and the only organised political party in Trinidad—the West Indian Independence Party—the Federated and Industrial Workers Union and the People's Political Party of St. Vincent, the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions with its powerful wing in the sugar industry, the Sugar and Agricultural Workers Union, the Caribbean Labour Congress stands fast on the one side, against Adams' dictatorship in Barbados and Luckhoo's discredited Man Power Citizens Association in Guiana.

Unity in the Caribbean is no mystery to the working class, but for the labour leaders in Britain who set the pattern of accepting knighthoods and other Tory bait, it is an insoluble tangle.

Every manoeuvre has been tried, every traitor has been sponsored, yet the labour movement in the Caribbean fights on towards higher living standards and national independence. What progress there might have been without these subversive elements in our midst!

Self-interest

Here is one more voice of the people supporting this policy as it appeared in the Barbados weekly newspaper on December 24th, 1953, signed Reginald Pierrepointe, West Indies News Service.

"Gentlemen:

The following information is submitted for your consideration. Serious movement being organized in highest Pan-American circles which will reflect on stand taken by Caribbean leadership in regard to British Guiana situation. Could result in graver intervention problems.

No alternative left except to dramatize conditions which continue to breed similar problems in all the Colonial areas.

Intelligent self-interest calls for immediate mobilization of all forces to halt more complicated problems.

Suggest immediately calling Press Conference as first step to emphasize determination of Caribbean leadership to fight to have Guiana Peoples' Constitution restored."

Sports Commentary

By ELTON OLLIVIERE

CRICKET

THERE is no doubt as to the outcome of the present Test series being played in the West Indies, despite England's success in the Third Test. The English side is affected by a go-slow attitude that meets with loud disapproval from the spectators.

The West Indies by aggressive cricket forced England to bat defensively. This kind of batting in first class cricket always shows up superb bowling, and should the West Indian players improve in fielding accuracy, bowling and batting they should have certain victory. Good luck West Indian cricketers!

INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS

Now that we are approaching federation and with many of our athletes figuring in international sports, it would be a good idea for us to merge our athletic associations and send teams to all international athletic meetings. I mention this with my eye on the coming Empire Games to be hald in Vancouver this summer and the not too distant Olympics which will be held in Australia.

For the Olympics and other Empire Games, cinder tracks should be made available to all budding international aspirants. Keen inter-island meetings should be organized at least twice yearly to be held all over the Caribbean. Coaches should be found; here's a chance to give MacDonald Bailey, Herb McKenley, Lloyd LaBeach and George Rhoden the opportunity to coach our young athletes. Come on West Indies, wake up!

BRIEF SPORTS NEWS

Congrats, Herb MacKenley. Sports fans will be glad to learn that MacKenley is the new world professional champion. He has clocked a new professional 440 yards record in the time of 47.3 secs. at Melbourne, Australia.

Long striding, Olympic title holder, Arthur Wint is now a qualified doctor.

MARRIED

MISS OLIVE OCCOMORE of Islington, London, last December became the bride of Mr. J. Vass. Jackson, from Kingston, Jamaica.

The groom, who has been residing in England for nearly four years, is a member of the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), and has taken a keen interest in every aspect of the organisation's activities. He attended the world conference in the Defence of the Rights of Youth held in Vienna in May, 1953, as representative of the C.L.C.; and, as convenor of the West Indian Festival Committee, he did a good job of work in stimulating interest in the World Youth Festival held in Bucharest in August, 1953.

Mr. Jackson's vivacious bride teaches in a government school.

★

A ROMANCE which lasted over twenty-four months was fulfilled in the marriage at Brixton Registrar on Saturday. Dec. 19, between petite Miss Marjorie Prowell from Georgetown, British Guiana, and Mr. John Cazeau from Cunupia, Trinidad.

Mr. Cazeau has been a member of the Executive Committee of the C.L.C. since he joined the movement in 1951. He served on the C.L.C.'s deputation to the Colonial Office just over two years ago, re Inter-West Indian travel.

Mr. Cazeau is a Postal and Telegraph Officer stationed at Wimpole St. Post Office, W.1. When not engaged in politics or sports, he studies surveying at the Westminster Technical College. The newlyweds wish to thank all those who turned up at the reception, especially the bride's aut, Mrs. Agnes Hall, who was in charge of all the preparations.

MONTEGO BAY WORKERS OUT

KINGSTON, Jamaica,
February 23rd.

WORKERS at the Bay Roc Hotel in Montego Bay have gone on strike, despite efforts by Bustamante, Chief Minister, to end it. The strikers are members of his union.

The Bay Roc Hotel is a posh concern catering for rich tourists with money to burn. Now it is threatened with a close down for the rest of the season.

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British Honduras
Special Issue

CARIBBEAN
NEWS 6d.

April-May 1954

B. HONDURAS SHAKES LYTTELTON

THE prospect of a people's victory in British Honduras in elections planned for April 28th has sent Lyttelton—watchdog of British imperialism—into a fit.

Fearing victory by the popular People's United Party, Lyttelton has decided to take action before the elections this time instead of after, by sending to Honduras a one-man commission named Sir Reginald Sharpe.

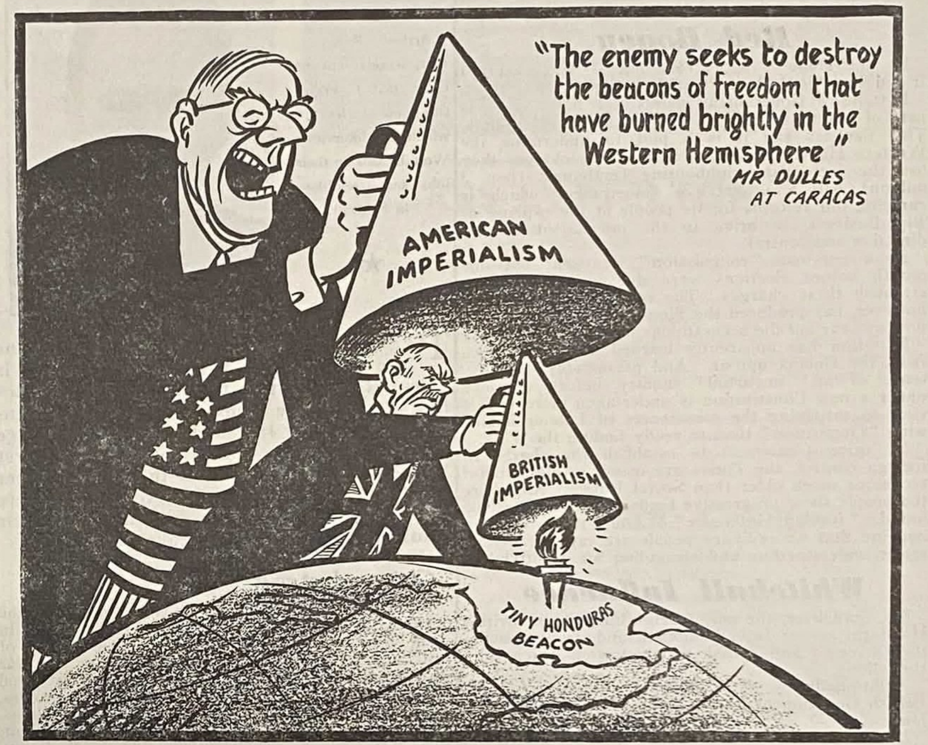
Hair-raising stories

This gentlemen was sent ostensibly to investigate what links the PU.P. has with Guatemala and Communism. The "impartial" commissioner has reported after one week's investigation, supporting the charges which prompted his dispatch to Honduras—namely, that the P.U.P. is under the influence of Guatemala and receives money from Guatemala.

Reports have appeared in the British press recently making allegations that the P.U.P. received £15,000 from Guatemala for financing its election campaign.

All that Sir Reginald has been able to produce so far, however, is the allegation that Mr. Price, Secretary of the P.U.P., received £500 from the Guatemalan

continued on page 3


"The enemy seeks to destroy the beacons of freedom that have burned brightly in the Western Hemisphere"
MR DULLES AT CARACAS
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
BRITISH IMPERIALISM
TINY HONDURAS BEACON

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JAGAN HELD

GEORGETOWN.

FOR leaving the restricted area of Georgetown to which he has been confined under emergency regulations, Cheddi Jagan; deposed Premier of Guiana, was arrested in Mahaicony where he had gone to earn his livelihood as a dentist.

Dr. Jagan has dental clinics outside Georgetown, and although permission was asked to visit these, it was refused.

After being released on bail he was again arrested and denied bail on the grounds that a demonstration had been held following his release.

Dr. Jagan has denied responsibility for the spontaneous procession of supporters

Mrs. Janet Jagan has also been arrested. Rory Westmaas, Martin Carter and five others are being held without bail.

These unnecessary attacks on leaders of the P.P.P. are seen as an attempt by the Government to restrict the party's activity among the people, while not actually outlawing it in the legal sense.

Protest strikes on several sugar estates indicate the wide support that exists for the Party.

Trinidad Party Raided

Port-of-Spain, 7.4.54.

POLICE today raided the headquarters of the West Indian Independence Party with all the drama of a dawn attack, that is before working people had started their day's business.

Simultaneously, six other private addresses were raided and attempts are being made to frighten the thousands of members that are now joining the W.I.I.P

Veteran trade union leader Jim Barrett was manacled by seven vicious police.

Barrett, Executive member of the W.I.I.P, who from 1937 has been respected by both employed and unemployed as a militant trade unionist, is the main target owing to his unswerving faith in the democratic rights and civil liberties of all Trinidadians.

★ EDITORIAL ★

BRITISH HONDURAS

WHEN are elections to be free and when are they not to be free ? The British Government has a double-faced answer to this question, depending on whether the results, they feel, will favour imperialism or the interests of the people.

Foreign Minister Mr. Anthony Eden at the Berlin Conference boldly expressed the unflinching stand of Britain for free elections in Germany, believing that the results would be favourable to German rearmament.

While Eden, however, was so self-righteously upholding the principle of "free" elections (with occupation forces still present), his Government was coolly disfranchising the Guianese people, nullifying their free elections and putting in the place of the freely elected Government a government of nominated persons.

So much for our faith in the value of pious declarations on the principle of free elections by the British Government.

Now comes the turn of British Honduras with its 70,000 people to have free elections (limited by a small signature test). But the Government and big business Press believe that the People's United Party will win a big majority. And they conclude that this is not good for British imperialism.

Also, the Yankee self-styled benefactors of the Western Hemisphere (extending right round to Pakistan) take fright at the prospect of 70,000 people voting for a party which promises to bring improvements in the people's welfare.

Red Bogey

So the stage is set. The plot ?—Our good old friend the "Red Bogey", with a slightly new twist.

Lyttelton's Government claims that the P.U.P. is part of a Communist plot against British Honduras. The Yankees say it is a plot to undermine the Western Hemisphere. In making these charges they use the fact that neighbouring Guatemala (pop. 3 million) has a progressive Government which is carrying out reforms for its people at the expense of Big Business, to bring in the one about foreign direction and control.

So a one-man "commission" was sent out one month before elections were due in an effort to establish these charges. The commissioner's report, however, has produced the flimsiest of facts which in no way bear out the accusations.

Lyttelton has apparently learned a thing or two from the Guiana uproar. And presumably, the pretence of an "impartial" inquiry before elections under a new Constitution is undertaken more with a view to satisfying the consciences of Labour Right-wing "Opposition" than to really finding the truth.

By using Guatemala to establish the charge of foreign control, the Tories are using an old familiar technique much older than Soviet Russia. Anywhere the people show progressive tendencies there must be found "foreign influence". Our rulers cannot imagine that we ordinary people are capable of ourselves understanding and struggling for a better life.

Whitehall Influence

No, Sir Oliver, the only foreign influence in British Honduras comes from Whitehall and its placemen—the Governor and British administration which rules the colony.

Additionally is the influence exercised on the British Government by Washington through bellicose Dulles.

Let all our people realise that this attack on Honduras, following so closely the attack on Guiana, is no isolated incident. It is the working out of a pattern by which British Imperialism says to the West Indian people—"we will not allow you to advance any further to independence; we aim to keep you in the colonial empire for our profits and will use every method including armed force and violence to do it!

In face of this outright brutal British policy there can be no middle way of hoping that by ceasing to struggle against it, imperialism will, out of its good sweet nature, grant concessions leading eventually to full independence.

Only two roads remain open. One road leads to firm opposition to the imperialist onslaught by the whole West Indies. The other leads to betrayal and acceptance of the status quo.

Every West Indian leader will be judged by whether he takes the first road or the second road. Leaders like Cheddi Jagan who resolutely take the first course reap the slander and persecution of the Lytteltons, but win the undying gratitude of their people. They are the real patriots of the West Indies.

Britain's moves against Honduras must be seen in the totality of its attacks on the people's democratic movements in Guiana, and more recently Jamaica and St. Vincent, in an extending development as the people grow stronger.

The whole West Indies must rally to support the Hondurans.

For free elections in British Honduras !
Apply the New Constitution !
Hands off the People's United Party !

AMERICAN SCHEMES SOUTH OF THE BORDER

CARACAS, VENEZUELA. Nineteen Latin Central American states took part here in an Inter-American Conference which opened on March 1st. Costa-Rica was the single notable abstention, reported as an official protest against the Facist rule of the Government of Venezuela.

Today, over 200,000 political prisoners are perishing in filthy Venezuelan jails.

Mr. John Foster Dulles, United States Secretary of State, supported by Mr. John Cabot, former U.N.O. representative, forced their way there to put pressure on Latin America, and secure them in the camp of War. The facade was to be a united anti-Communist front, based on the Monroe doctrine. Bait provided was the promise of "economic aid".

The task was not an easy one. Through the confusion and babel of political dogma that exists here, there is overriding support for ANTI-COLONIALISM. How well this was borne out as the Agenda progressed !

When Mr. J. Narine Singh, of the P.P.P. of Guiana arrived, it was easy to understand his welcome and appreciate the possible support he would receive as a result of his Party's staunch actions against Britain's Big Business.

FUTILE TACTIC

Some states after being ceaselessly besieged with U.S. capitalist propaganda, had planned to support opposition to U.S.A. demands, as a tactic, and then concede later when the inevitable technique of bribery was operated. This proved quite futile against the past masters of intrigue and corruption.

Instead, Guatemala and Bolivia gained much respect for their first stand and united support for the real independence of Latin American states. This put the Washington spokesmen on the spot and left them on a crest of uncertainty.

PINCERS ELUDED

Argentina presented other problems. With its vast developing agriculture and mineral resources, its recent trade agreement with the U.S.S.R., this was an adversary to be contended with. The Trade agreement provides a large measure of independence from the United States of America.

The avaricious claws of the Yankee eagle had been thus frustrated and the Wall Street boys had to scratch around for another weapon to control this strengthened economic rival.

U.S. SQUIRM

Senor Toriello, the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, invoked the anger of Foster Dulles when he asked for a definition of Communism. This drew thunderous rounds of applause from delegates whose glee was undisguised at seeing the U.S. monsters squirm.

But to keep pace with Guatemala's leadership meant much more preparatory work at home before attending such conferences.

Dulles' counter action, was, to promise an undated economic conference for Washington with Latin American representatives.

ANTI-COLONIALISM

Unpredictable Panama added to the rout of the "colossus of the north", by successfully piloting an amendment to Dulles' resolution. Senor Remon wished to condemn all racial discrimination and use any infringement as a reason for united action against any aggressor. Support here was as marked as when Guatemala mocked Dulles. In fact, it was less inhibited, as U.S. propaganda always has to pay lip-service to anti-colour bar and anti-colonialism.

West Indians in British Industry

★

Arthur Brown, Asst. Secretary of the C.L.C.(L.B.) begins this new series in which he interviews West Indians on their jobs and conditions in England

★

TO grasp some idea of the part West Indians are playing in British Industry it is essential to ascertain the reason for their influx in such large numbers. It is often maintained that West Indians first took their place in British Industry during and after the First World War, but because of the small number involved then and the fact that they were mostly unskilled, it can be said that their contribution was by no means great.

Changed status

During the Second World War, however, the position was completely changed. West Indians in their own countries had developed some degree of skill, especially in the engineering industry. It was significant that when Britain, in her greatest need for technicians, called upon the colonial peoples, among the first to respond were the West Indians. But today, West Indians in this country will admit, their status has been changed from one of "Welcome, brothers", to that of "When are you going home, Darkie ?".

Of course this position has not arisen from the West Indian's failure to maintain his technical skill (a skill which has been praised both by members of the Government and employers) but by the failure of the British ruling class to find markets for their products in the face of growing German and Japanese competition, the result of which is unemployment.

Failure to recognise the class nature of the struggle, and succumbing to the boss-inspired fears of unemployment, many British people indulge in racial grading. They do not realise that at the same time they are playing into the hands of the boss, thus worsening an already delicate situation.

Cold shoulder

Hear what G. G. Brown, from Jamaica, employed in the engineering industry, has to say on the question :

"I find it rather hard to say whether or not my relationship with my English fellow-workers have improved during my five-and-a-half years employment in the British engineering industry.

"It is, however, noticeable that the hospitality of the average English person during peace-time is not as warm as was showered on me during the war years. Why ? I do not know. It makes me think."

That is the general feeling of most West Indians in British Industry.

Sharpe Profile

WHO is Sir Reginald Sharpe ? What manner of man that needs an escort of Her Majesty's warship "Sheffield" ?

Let me introduce Sir Reginald Sharpe, Q.C., lone Commissioner of Enquiry appointed by Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, M.P., to decide the fate of British Honduras under the Union Jack.

Sir Reginald Sharpe, Q.C., is a very well qualified Divorce Court judge. He is also well experienced in British Colonial life, having served with distinctions the British Government in Burma, from 1937-48, prior to its realisation of Independence.

In the Who's Who, Sir Reginald's club is given as the East India and Sports.

Its membership, we are told, is recruited mainly from former Indian Civil Servants, the English Colonial Office servants of Malaya, but more recently the same types occupied on similar duties in the Union of South Africa.

A very worthy background from which to assess lone-handedly the associations of the People's Party in British Honduras.

Yes, we have a lot to learn from such men of eminence. For example, "What is learned counsel's opinion on a situation where a single commissioner appointed by the British Government, sits enquiring on the activities of a Party committed to a policy of rejecting British rule, while the British Government's ship-of-war looms across the overlooking bay?"

BIG GUIANA SWINDLE

PLANS were announced in the British House of Commons today by Mr. Lyttelton for the so-called expenditure of £15 million in Guiana.

He admitted that he was grateful to the World Bank for their advice and even hinted in reply to Mr. Roland Robinson, Conservative M.P., Director of B.G. Consolidated Gold Fields, that there was a possibility of obtaining capital investment from "outside"—which spells U.S.A.!

Lyttelton said the cost over the next 5 years would be no less than £15 million. The detailed proposals for the next 2 years amounting to £11 million, would be divided as follows: £3 million for transport and communications, £2½ million for agriculture and forestry, £2½ million for social development, £2½ millions for modernising of sugar estate ranges and finally £1 million for agricultural and industrial credits through a credit corporation.

Same stew

This is the same old stew served up in Jamaica in 1946 and 1947 in the period of the Creech-Jones—Griffiths dictatorship.

Unemployment there has not abated and high prices continue to sky-rocket.

The P.P.P. set out its programme for development and Guianese overwhelmingly supported it—to the extent of winning 18 out of 24 seats in the election. The Great Dictator has now spoken and his Labour predecessor (Griffiths) has welcomed the proposals. Without the mythical promise of millions of pounds Jagan won popular support. In the developing fight, Lyttelton finds himself versus the people.

Good Fighter for Jamaica

AFTER an absence of six years, Mr. Rolly Simms, ex Vice-President of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and former 2nd Vice-President of the League of Coloured Peoples, has returned to his native land (Jamaica) to establish permanent residence.

Born at Kingston, Jamaica on March 24 th, 1927, Rolly, as schooled at the well-known Kingston College which he left to join the R.A.F. in denfence of democracy. He spent six years in uniform, qualifying as a Wireless Operator.

Returning home on leave in 1948, the contrast of life in Europe to the sad plight of thousands of jobless Jamaicans and the inactivity of the so-called labour leaders, spurred Rolly to take an interest in politics. Disgusted above all by the crookedness of the local labour leaders who paid lip service to Imperialism, he saw the need for a real working class movement to fight more effectively for federation and self-government.

TIRELESS

Alert and sturdy, this 27-year-old Jamaican has not confined his efforts solely to West Indian activities, but wherever injustices are perpetrated on oppressed peoples he has opposed tyranny.

Last year Rolly's marriage to scholarly Anne Lesser, B.A.(Hons.), London University, brought together two young people with similar political outlooks. English born, Anne is well known within the C.L.C. for her capable efforts.

With the departure of Rolly Simms and his charming wife, our London Branch has lost two of its most ardent workers, but we are consoled by the fact that our loss is Jamaica's gain.

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Write

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Mrs. B. Lennard (Jamaica) presenting to **Mr. D.N.Pritt Q.C.** a token of red roses and carnations in appreciation of his great victory on behalf of the P.P.P. of British Guiana.

The inscribed scroll that was also presented expressed the deep feeling that all West Indians felt when a great Englishman, without reward, joined our ranks in defence of civil rights and civil justice.

Fred Bowman and Nasrudeen of Guiana are now listed alongside Jomo Kenyatta and the Indian peasants of Telengana who have been privileged to be represented by the Great Defender.

B. HONDURAS SHAKES LYTTELTON

from page 1

Consulate for payment of a fine involving sedition in 1951, and that Mr. Goldson, Editor of the Belize "Billboard", negotiated for supplies of newsprint from Guatemala for his paper.

Despite the flimsiness of the evidence produced, as was to be expected (recall the lack of evidence in the case of Guiana), reports indicate that the New Constitution may still be suspended or action taken against the People's United Party.

At the very least, this move of sending a snooping commissioner to British Honduras just one month before elections must be seen as an attempt to influence the outcome of the elections if held, with a deliberate Whitehall-inspired campaign of witch-hunting.

Britain's rulers are jumping ahead of themselves in fear of democratic elections. The nightmare of British Guiana is closing in on them again, even though the situation differs from Guiana in that Whitehall provides a Constitution which allows only nine elected members out of fifteen in the Legislative Council, while the Executive Council which is intended to be the real instrument of Government allows just two elected members out of seven.

Very Restricted

There will not be the semi-ministerial system as was in Guiana. The elections are also not absolutely under universal adult suffrange, ability to write one's name being a qualification. The P.U.P. has, however, been active in teaching people to write their names.

In addition to the above safeguards, there remain the usual reserve and emergency powers for the Governor.

All this, and Lyttelton still shakes in his boots.

The Party that has inspired all this fear—People's United Party—was formed only in 1950, six months after the birth of the P.P.P. of Guiana. It set itself the task of realising universal adult suffrage and self-government. It is the only organised party in the country.

Popular Party

The P.U.P. is definitely not a Communist party and in no sense can it be compared with anything even resembling a Communist party, Catholicism being a big influence within it. But it is a popular party of the people, supported by the people, and aiming at improvements of conditions of life.

Supporting the party is the General Workers' Union, main trade union body with 9,000 members.

The Belize "Billboard", most popular daily newspaper, publicizes the aims and activities of the party and carries news of interest to the workers.

P.U.P. is fighting against a background of imperialist maintained poverty, disease and unemployment.

Unemployment figures are around 30 per cent of the labour force, with another 30 per cent. not regularly employed.

Cost of living index skyrocketed by 43 per cent when the pound was devalued in 1949. Previously British Honduras currency enjoyed parity with the U.S. dollar.

"Daily Express" (12/1/50) reported: "When it came, it hit the people living in poverty without enough to eat without work and without a sign of things getting better. It sent prices of some staple foods rocketing, because almost everything they eat here is imported".

Most of the non-Europeans suffer from either malaria, typhoid, or pulmonary tuberculosis. A Colonial Office report (No. 281-4) attributes these diseases to nutritional deficiences.

Rich Country

Infant mortality in 1952 was 85 per 1,000, nearly three times the rate in Britain.

Illiteracy reaches alarming proportions as a result of lack of schools and qualified teachers.

Nevertheless British Honduras is rich in resources, with known deposits of oil under consideration for exploitation by the Gulf Oil Corporation. Tin has also been discovered and is earmarked for intensive imperialist exploitation. Mahogany and chicle (for chewing gum) are the main exports, with sugar, rice, citrus fruits and other crops also produced.

The Belize City Council has been the only elected body in the colony. But in 1950 the Council was dissolved by the Governor, Sir Ronald Garvey, because the Councillors chose to postpone discussion on a motion to hang King George VI's picture in the Chamber, until after they had discussed the rising cost of living as a result of the currency devaluation.

U. S. Influence

It is significant that the efforts to link the P.U.P. with Guatemala coincide with American Secretary of State Dulles' veiled threats against Guatemala at the recently concluded Caracas Conference of Inter-American States.

Dulles made outbursts against what he called "Communism" in the Western Hemisphere and only Guatemala had the courage to oppose him.

Also of significance is the proposed visit of the International Bank mission to British Honduras in June this year, following its trips to Jamaica and Guiana.

Anglo-American imperialism is uniting to snuff out the small degree of liberty of the Honduras people, in attacking their limited Constitution and the People's United Party.

In face of this, every effort will be needed to demand that the people be allowed their right to exercise their vote in choosing the representatives they want, that the P.U.P. be left alone, and no interference be made with the new Constitution or the elections. Let the people have their say!

BIRMINGHAM BUSMEN and the COLOUR-BAR

From HENRY GUNTER
member of Birmingham Trades Council and Secretary, Afro-West Indian Association.

STRONG protests from Birmingham's coloured population supported by certain sections of the national press were responsible for breaking the colour bar previously adopted by the Transport authorities in the employment of coloured personnel on the city's buses.

Ballot

The issue was highlighted recently when the transport employees were asked by the Birmingham Liberal Organisation to boycott the proposed ballot on the question of the employment of coloured labour. Although this was the first time that people outside Birmingham knew of the crisis, the situation was actually the outcome of continuous representations made by African and Caribbean labour organisations, and the chairman of the City Transport Committee, Alderman Watton, since 1951, with a view to getting eligible coloured persons employed in the service.

When the matter was again raised at the beginning of this year Mr. Harry Green, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, openly declared his union's opposition to the employment of coloured workers. He intimated that a number of white workers threatened to walk out of this was done and further stated that the majority of coloured people in the city were incapable of doing the job.

The coloured people through the African and Caribbean labour organisations challenged the statement and a demand for a joint discussion was made. A meeting of members of the Transport Committee, representatives of the Union and a deputation from the coloured people met. Also present was Mr. S. DeSouza, Jamaican Welfare Liaison Officer from the Colonial Office. Strong arguments from the coloured people's representatives forced the union to reconsider its decision. Eventually the Transport and General Workers' Union in a press statement officially stated that it had no objection to the employment of coloured people as a result of the meeting. The matter was then thrown back into the hands of the Birmingham Transport Committee with the warning: "If you employ them as conductors the responsibility is yours."

'Popularity test'

A ballot was proposed and the T.G.W.U. made it plain that the idea did not originate with them but was put forward by a Sub-Committee of the Transport Committee. Accordingly, the Birmingham Liberal Organisation issued the following statement:

"The intention of both the trades union official concerned and the Corporation Transport Committee which is conniving in the affair is obvious—to make entry of non-Europeans into employment as conductors conditional upon some sort of popularity test.

"As men and women, the non-Europeans have the same right to earn a living as anybody else and the same right to be treated with respect. No vote by anybody is necessary to determine that."

With this announcement, and following on further consultations between the Union and the Corporation Transport Committee, the first batch of coloured conductors were engaged.

Worse jobs

In Birmingham, the second largest industrial city in Britain, live over 18,000 coloured persons, most immigrants from Britain's colonies, and a large percentage are unemployed. Even those who have found employment are relegated to jobs which are familiar to other coloured people throughout Britain—mostly jobs that the British people don't want. Consequently, with a shortage of 943 drivers and conductors on the buses, it was inevitable that the issue would arise, and all those British people who spoke up against the colour bar are to be congratulated.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the result, the situation has focused attention on the need for everlasting vigilance to ensure that working class solidarity is maintained.

When the Slaves Rebelled

—HUNDREDS WERE MASSACRED

— Told with a modern lesson
by ERIC DESLANDES

ONE of the most inescapable conclusions arising out of the Guiana crisis is that British colonial policy has not changed.

The lessons of the past—the loss of the North American colonies, and more recently India, Burma, Ceylon—have apparently gone unheeded and the policy of subjugation and persecution still persists.

In Guiana the bogey of Communism and an alleged "plot", still unproved, were used to dispose of the freely and democratically elected people's representatives. In Malaya the people fighting for more political and economic opportunities are called "bandits". In Kenya it is the Mau Mau. What's in a name ?

The plain truth is that where dignity strives in men's souls, a race or a people will not be content to remain subjected to an alien power whether by force or diplomacy. What's more, colonials are now not only fighting against the injustices and limitations of imperialism and its policy of exploitation, but are also fighting for political independence.

Exit Racialism

Racialism becomes less prominent in colonial struggles today. More significant is a new realization of working class solidarity. It was on the basis of this ideology that the People's Progressive Party in Guiana was formed. Because their Government attempted to implement election promises of improving conditions for the masses they are now deposed.

Abrogation of constitutions is not new in the West Indies. As far back as 1865 the people of Jamaica had their Constitution taken away. The story is interesting as it indicates the ceaseless struggles that West Indians have waged against imperialism, even in those early days.

Abolition of chattel slavery in 1838 crippled most of the Jamaican planters who depended on slave labour. Most Negroes preferred subsistence living on small plots of land rather than on a plantation.

The Island experienced one of the most severe droughts in its history from 1863 to 1865. The Constitution at that time provided for a House of Assembly and an Executive Council presided over by the Crown Governor. Members of the House of Assembly were elected on a franchise restricted to persons of property, and members of the Executive Council were appointed by the governor.

Rising Storm

Resentment grew as the local government and the Crown both turned deaf ears to the clamour of the unenfranchised for universal suffrage and more representative administration.

The memorable Morant Bay rebellion was the result. The people had taken enough. A Negro, Paul Bogle, led this rebellion.

The chief magistrate of the parish and members of the parish vestry were killed. The Assembly proclaimed martial law and abrogated the constitution. The military moved in, burned down over one thousand houses and massacred hundreds to discourage further unrest.

But governor Eyre went too far. A member of the House of Assembly, George William Gordon, a mulatto West Indian whose father was a rich British planter, was alleged to have encouraged the workers by speeches he made inside and outside the House of Assembly.

He was illegally taken into the martial law area, given a drumhead court martial and convicted on charges unsupported by the fiimsy and illegal evidence adduced. Together with the patriot Paul Bogle, he was hanged in public in Morant Bay.

Crown Colony

In England indignation rose against Governer Eyre's excessive actions. Protests poured into the Colonial Office and the Houses of Parliament with such rapidity, that the Governor was recalled and reduced.

Despite protests from the Labour movement in Britain, the Constitution was nevertheless suspended, and a crown colony government set up. Since Communism was not yet contemplated in Russia, the Red bogey could not fit into the picture.

As these ancestors of Jamaica revolted against oppression, so too today our people in the entire West Indies are again taking up the struggle against unjust tyrants. But now we are stronger and see clearer what we are fighting against.

Now, as then, we hope to find numerous friends in the British labour movement.

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OLIVER LYTTLETON, Secretary of State for Colonies, told the House of Commons on February, 22nd, that, from October 1952 to the beginning of February this year, 3,399 Africans had been killed in Kenya, 1,380 captured and over 112,000 taken into custody.

It has also been revealed at the court matial of Captain Peter Griffiths, army officer charged with murdering an African, that 5/- reward was offered by some officers for every Mau Mau suspect killed.

Clearly the answer is not in racialist terms "Because Whites hate Blacks", nor in idealistic terms "Whites are civilising Blacks, destroying barbarism".

In this article, Rolly Sims, of the C.L.C. (L.B.), shows that the problem of Kenya is really rooted in the economic structure of the colony—in Imperialism.

What is Behind the Kenya War

By ROLLY SIMMS

THE British Government informs us that the fighting in Kenya is to restore "law and order", so that they can develop the country. Of course Kenya, like all other colonies, needs development. But what the Tories have in mind when they talk about "development" is not what the African or the colonial peoples as a whole mean by development.

A brief look at some of the companies operating in Kenya will explain what the Tories mean. **The East African Lands and Development Company** best illustrates the Tory point of view. It acquired 310,000 acres of the best Kenya lands from the Crown (how the Crown got it is another matter) in 1920. It then leased and sold this land.

In the four years 1947 to 1950 this company paid a 100% dividend each year, and in 1951 it paid 33⅓%. In other words any gentleman from the City of London who invested £1,000 in this company would in the five years 1947 to 1951 receive for his "trouble", £4,333 6s. 8d., and still retain the original £1,000 invested.

Imperialists

The "gent" from the City made his profit even though he never went to Kenya and didn't do one stroke of work for the company. Yet his profit must have been worked for by somebody and must have come from somewhere. His profit was made from the Africans in Kenya.

This "gent" and his class export their capital not to help Kenya Africans but to enrich themselves. We call this "gent" and his class imperialists. This is the only accurate political term for them.

Let us take another example:

The East African Power and Lighting Co., after paying tax and putting aside a huge sum for depreciation, made a profit of £576,731 in 1951, compared with £506,946 in 1950. Who sits on the board of this company? Until he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Mr. Kenneth Pickthorn, Conservative M.P. did. Although he resigned his directorship he still retains his investment holdings and the profits that flow from them.

Kenya's most valuable mineral resource, soda ash, is entirely in the hands of the **Magadi Soda Co.,** a subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries. This company, in 1924, secured the 99-year lease of 348 square miles including deposits of natural soda over 30 square miles known as Lake Magadi. The issued capital is £797,027 and its recent dividends have been —220% in 1947-48; 275% 1948-49; 150% 1949-50; 100% 1950/51.

Relatives

Another giant octopus sucking the lifeblood of the Kenya people is the **Kentan Gold Areas Co.** (issued capital £1,250,000). This in linked with the giant Tanganyika Concessions, which has copper, gold and uranium interests in the Rhodesias, Belgian Congo and elsewhere. The Chairman of Kantan Gold Areas is Earl Grey, Conservative peer and father-in-law of Sir Evelyn Baring.

Who is Sir Evelyn Baring? None other than the present Governor of Kenya!!

East African Estates owns 22,643 acres near the coast of Kenya. The Earl of Plymouth, a Conservative Peer, owns 37,110 shares in this company. Viscount Cobham another Conservative Peer, also sits on the board of directors of this company. If Viscount Cobham should need any advice on how to oppress Africans he need not go outside his family.

For the Viscount has a cousin who is none other than the Hon. Oliver Lyttelton, M.P., Secretary of State for Colonies. And just to strengthen this family of exploiters, an uncle, the Hon. R. G. Lyttelton holds another block of 14,108 shares.

Legal Robbery

By declaring the just demands of the Kenya people for their land and elementary democratic rights to be an insurrection, the ruling class was able to launch a vicious attack on the Kenya people. The process of clearing the Highlands of Kenya (the best lands) was ruthlessly carried through, and the thousands of displaced Africans were dumped in the overcrowded reserves without land or any means of existence.

Simultaneously police and army carried out raids on the reserves seizing thousands of cattle, sheep, goats(etc. (Times 2.12.52). Further prohibitive fines have been levied on the people and every form of organisation suppressed.

Thus whether or not imperialism started the Kenya war with the sole purpose of solving the problems faced by the influx of capital into Kenya, it cannot be denied that the war has produced conditions favourable to that large body of capital, i.e., a large propertyless class of people who owing to the fines and taxes they have to pay must look for jobs to earn cash money quickly.

And further, it has destroyed the organisation through which it might have been possible for the Kenya Africans to bargain with the employers for the wages they should receive for work—the Kenya African Union.

Hence this war against the peaceful people of Kenya is nothing but a bloody imperialist war. It is a filthy war which every West Indian organisation should condemn in the strongest terms. Every West Indian can lend support to the people of Kenya by intensifying our own struggle for an Independent West Indies.

Pull that leg!

If we imagine imperialism to be in the shape of a human being, we can see that the people of Kenya have well and truly got hold of one leg. Of course we would be helping if we went to Kenya and helped them to hold that leg.

But it would be much more effective if we got hold of the other leg that is in our country, and together with the Kenya African people toss Imperialism on his neck with a crack that will spell the end of colonial exploitation, the end of the need to wander in search of a job, or education, the end of racial discrimination.

Long live the struggle of the Kenya Africans against British exploiters!

Long live the unity of the West Indian and Kenya people in their joint struggle against British Ibperialism!

BRITISH SOLIDARITY WITH GUIANA

Now is the time for anger,
Scorn to burn
The tattered mask of humbug,
Hate to discern
Tongues that wrap truth in slander,
Wit to learn
In days the whole age's essence:
Now is the time for anger.

Actions not words make freedom:
Where's the power—
In ballot box or rifle?
Gone is the hour
Of piecrusts two a penny—
The sugar's sour.
Actions not words make freedom.

Will you join to ours your protest?
Strip from shame
Its blanket of trite excuses,
Fling the blame
In the teeth of those who earned it
And scotch their game?
Join then to ours your protest!

Meg Scully.

UGANDA ELDER SUPPORTS B. H.

DR. MONICA FELTON, a Vice-President of the Women's International Democratic Federation, appeared as Guest Speaker at a public meeting in defence of BRITISH HONDURAS, on Friday, 19th February.

The audience listened attentively to the sincere expression of sympathy and solidarity that Monica Felton felt with the Honduran people.

Against a backcloth of pure African charm and reason, Mr. S. Mulumba, the representative of the Elders of Uganda in London, identified himself and all his people with the common fight for Peace and the right to self-determination. "Today," he said, "British Honduras is joining the ranks of Guiana, Kenya, Malaya and Uganda, as they demand real independence and the freedom to restore democracy."

The meeting was organised by the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH.

Mr. Rolly Simms was the last speaker, and in his powerful style established himself as one who would be missed in London, as this was his last public appearance prior to returning to Jamaica.

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

Selling C.N.

LAST Saturday night I promised to meet an old friend at Marble Arch. He had only arrived in the country about three weeks ago. As usual I carried "Caribbean News" along with me, it's second nature now! In true West Indian style we were soon joined by two other boys who were on their rounds of the night haunts.

Shades of yesterday and early youth, I went along. I was broke as usual and thought I'd be a misfit. How soon I knew to the contrary!

An old African friend sighted me between sips of his Pale Ale, steered himself across, with one swift movement pulled a copy of CN from the rolled bundle under my arm, simultaneously producing a shiny new sixpence, his sovreign's stern profile uppermost. And, "How are you?" said he, but before I replied, practically the remainder of the bundle of CNs had gone, and I the richer and a wiser man.

This is the thirst and love our people have for anything West Indian. More and more I see the need for a bigger paper; gossip, yes, that's what some want, sport, well you know what that means to my people, music, art, politics are our life's blood —who can argue?

For a real rich picture, just recall, Lord Beginner at Lords, bottles at Bourda (Guiana), the cash for the cricketers in Trinidad, and the whole is complete in CARIBBEAN NEWS.

It's up to you now!

Adams flees

MY mother always taught me that the path to success, was rugged, hard and narrow. On the contrary the path to perdition was wide smooth and slippery.

Last week a correspondent from Bridgetown, Barbados, told me of the bombastic Grantly Adams and his cronies who fled the House of Assembly when there was an opposition motion led by Mr. W. Crawford, seeking to assure for Cheddi Jagan and Forbes Burnham, safe unmolested passage through Little England.

Must have been some joke. But what an exposure! This was the onetime labour leader who used to bang his drum with pride as a nationalist and proudly proclaim the Federal Caribbean State.

"O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?"

In memory

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P., opened the Cultural Centre at 3 Robert Street, in the Borough of St. Pancras, London, on February 26th. The funds were raised by Dr. Moody from his West Indian tour just prior to his death.

Sports Comments

by

ELTON OLLIVIERRE

TEST ANALYSIS

MOST controversial test series ever to be played in the West Indies has ended in a draw.

West Indies cannot be proud in drawing the series after such a fine start in the first and second tests. The reasons for their poor showing in the third and final tests are surprisingly unexplained after their high batting averages and seeing that England had only just snatched the Ashes from Australia.

The series gave some fine but rather spasmodic cricket. Players on both sides were brilliant at times. Honours on the West Indies side go to Valentine and Ramadhin, who gave a fine display of bowling. Valentine takes the world record for the youngest cricketer to get a hundred wickets in the shortest time.

Walcott and Weekes for their magnificent display in the art of batting. Walcott in particular for his stand in the time of crisis. He shows himself to be the world's best all round cricketer.

Youth Record

Sobers takes another record, being the youngest cricketer (17 years) to bowl a test wicket.

West Indies captaincy was really too cautious, but good. A bolder approach might have brought different results.

On the English side, praise goes to Hutton, who's dogged and hesitating batting saved England from certain defeat.

Statham bowled well. In my opinion he was the most outstandingly consistent bowler for England. Bailey was also largely responsible for taking several good wickets and regaining England's confidence.

I cannot recall, however, any instance in Caribbean Test history when so much bickering, protest and insults were indulged in by a visiting side, and the Press in Britain. I wonder if test cricket is still being played as a sport.

When players of any game behave deplorably on the field, they bring discredit not only to themselves but their country. I sincerely hope that players as in other games would be penalized in future for bad behaviour.

AUSTRALIAN VISIT

The Australians by accepting the invitation to play in the West Indies next summer have shown initiative in maintaining world sportsmanship, despite the chauvinism expressed by some of their leading test cricketers and sports writers.

Not bothering to consider if they should play in the West Indies like England because of "bad umpiring" and "intimidation".

Charles Bray ("Daily Herald"), the most contentious sports writer on the last series, unhesitatingly said that the resentment—verbal and missile—was chiefly due to the shocking manners of the English side.

I sincerely hope that in the next Anglo-West Indian tests the spirit of previous series would be recaptured.

BRIEF SPORTS NEWS

The son of Bertie Thompson, quarter mile champion (Trinidad) has got a scholarship from the Trinidad Athletic Association. Bertie Thompson was once holder of the quarter and half mile for eight years.

★

E. MacDonald Bailey, of Trinidad, has been given an athletic coach job by Bookers Bros., of British Guiana.

JAMAICA TRADE UNION STRUGGLE

IN an effort to intimidate strikers and weaken the strike on major Jamaican sugar estates including Hanover and Siloah, police have raided the office of the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and homes of leading officials.

Newly formed J.F.T.U., and its affiliated sugar union S. & A.W.U., have rapidly won majorities on major sugar estates and under the leadership of the S. & A.W.U. workers have been on strike for better pay and conditions.

Arrogant employers refused to negotiate, relying instead on the intimidatory methods of police.

Police have also searched the homes of several individuals including Harry Drayton, member of People's Educational Organisation and biology teacher.

Daphne Campbell, President of Jamaica's Women's Assembly was charged with possessing "subversive publications".

These arrests and police intimidation follow a pattern developing throughout the West Indies against the people's right.

WEDDINGS

MARCH has been a wedding month for West Indians in Brixton.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke were married at the Brixton Parish Church on Saturday, 20th March. Best man was Mr. L. E. Jones, of Pt. Antonio, Jamaica. The bride's father proposed the toast. Mr. Baley was Master of Ceremonies. The bride is from Kingston and groom from Pt. Antonio. A very enjoyable reception was held at 1 Geneva Road, Brixton.

★

Mr. Neville Harvey, of Kingston, to **Miss Morlyn Fisher,** of St. Thomas, on 27th March. Best man was Mr. Ralph Simmons and the bridesmaid, Miss Jacqueline Stanley, the bride's cousin. Mr. L. Thomas was Master of Ceremonies, and the Rev. John Cawley, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Brixton, performed the rites. The reception was held at 4 Wiltshire Road.

Mr. Harvey is an engineer and Mrs. Harvey is a nurse. They met at a nurse's dance in London.

★

Miss Veronica Burke and Mr. Grant of St. Thomas. There were three bridesmaids and Lineth Burke, who also made the bride's dress. The bride wore lace over net Victorian Line, and the reception was held at 12 Somerleyton Road. The couple will live in Brixton.

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D. N. PRITT will speak

C.L.C. (L.B.) General Meeting

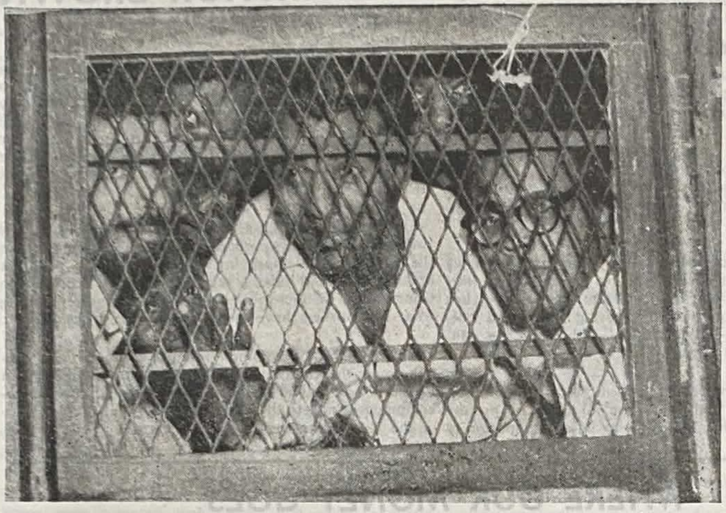
June 27th.

See advertisement on back page

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

June ★ 1954

Freedom — the 'Savage' way



WELL KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS

L. to R. are Rory Westmaas, Cheddi Jagan and Martin Carter with other P.P.P. supporters, being taken to jail in the Black Maria

GUIANA — A BIG PRISON

But fight growing

DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, deposed Prime Minister of British Guiana and leader of the People's Progressive Party, led the movement of defiance of the six month old Emergency Laws when he broke his restriction orders on April 3rd.

Dr. Jagan, who had left his dental practice over a year ago when he began campaigning for the April 1953 general elections, made plans on his return from India in February to open dental clinics in the rural areas.

continued on page 4

New Barbados Party Challenge to Adams

GREAT interest is being shown by Barbadians in the programme of the newly-formed Caribbean Christian Socialist Party of Barbados. Arising out of the Caribbean People's Alliance, the new party was founded on January 22nd and thousands of working people turned out to demonstrate their demand for a Party which would sincerely represent their interests.

The Party aims to educate Barbadians politically and socially, in a democratic and socialist outlook.

An indication of the fear of Government for this new Party is that on three occasions it has been denied use of the Queen's Park, which is a public institution.

The Party exposes the misdeeds in official quarters, as when two Englishmen with high-sounding degrees came to Barbados and in a short space of time drew thousands of taxpayers' money, then left the island scot-free.

This, in a situation where 20,000 workers are totally unemployed with no unemployment benefits, and about 40,000 partially unemployed in the only industry — King Sugar. Barbados has a total population of just 200,000.

Against a background of Imperialist imposed poverty, aided by reactionaries like Grantley Adams, the new Party is calling for independence for Barbados in a Federated Independent West Indies.

Big Rally

The C.C.S.P. was the only working class organisation that celebrated May Day 1954. It was a huge success, and was one of the best ever attended mass meetings held locally.

The workers were told the history of May Day and the working class movement.

The Party has since made a drive for a further thousand members, and may contest local elections for the first time if the Legislative Council passes the Maude Bill which will replace the Vestry system by adult suffrage in county elections.

JAMAICAN WORKERS DEMONSTRATE MAY DAY SPIRIT

KINGSTON

Several thousand workers demonstrated working class solidarity on May Day at the traditional site outside Coronation Market.

The demonstration was sponsored jointly by the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions, Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union, Factory and General Workers' Union, Jamaica Women's Assembly, Jamaica Youth Movement, and People's Educational Organisation. Representatives also attended from the Congregation of Progressive Youth.

Despite a heavy downpour of rain lasting two hours, the demonstration got under way at 7 p.m., and the mass audience listened attentively to speeches, applauding all remarks exposing the widespread bosses' industrial spy system operated particularly on the sugar estates.

Although this spy system has inspired some diffidence in public expression, nevertheless, moving among the workers one feels the intense hatred they have for the bosses.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

WHO ARE SPONGERS?

WHY ARE West Indians coming to England in such large numbers? — To earn a living, of course; to eat, to exist, to work. This we all know.

But, ah, you're wrong, says a certain gentleman of the popular press. They are coming to sponge on the English people, according to Derek Agnew writing in the "People".

". . . Thousands just want to come and loaf — to sit on your back and mine and cash in on National Assistance, the health scheme and all the services of the Welfare State."

But let him just look at the 'welfare state' in the West Indies, where unemployment ranges from 35 to 80 per cent. of the labour force, where there is no unemployment benefit, no health service and the dole is seven shillings a month; where starvation is rife.

And all these 'benefits' after 300 years of beneficient British rule, as in the case of Jamaica.

Mr. Agnew is peeved off because colonials can come to Britain provided they can pay the passage or stowaway, while English people can go to the colonies only as tourists or if they have a job awaiting them, or have money.

Anyone with eyes to see and want to use them, however, will see the reasons for this lack of 'reciprocity' that Mr. Agnew bemoans.

British people who go to the colonies go mainly as officials and various sorts of rulers, managers, exploiters, etc., or rich parasites off to Bahamas or Montego Bay to enjoy the splendours of our land.

If any odd bod from the 'mother country' finds himself without a job in a colony he would not be able to enjoy social services that do not exist.

The Dilemma

At the same time, you cannot afford to have the pure bred master race going about in rags in a colony. Gads! That would be letting the side down, destroying the carefully contrived myth of white British superiority.

On the other hand, our rulers are faced with the dilemma that worsening conditions of life in the colonies is producing greater unrest and struggle against the chains. So letting the venturesome come to England is one outlet.

But on the other horn of the dilemma, when our people to come to England they learn new lessons from the colour bar in all its manifestations.

As for 'reciprocity', no West Indian revels in his 'privilege' to be able to come to Britain without a job and to be a third class 'citizen'.

Real reciprocity would mean an independent West Indies and an independent Britain, pursuing policies of trade and interchange on the basis of equality and mutual respect to the benefit of both peoples.

As a sop to keeping Britain sterilised against us 'spongers', Mr. Agnew thinks Britain should spend the money it takes to keep us on the dole to provide jobs for us at home.

Well, we know perfectly well that we can provide ourselves with jobs in our own country if we get rid of those who are always telling us they are trying to do it for us, but who somehow always manage to come out on top while we come out at the bottom in this process of helping us.

Wholesale Robbery

For example, the total sum paid out to the colonies under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts during twelve years amounts to less than one-fifteenth of the Sterling Balances which Britain owes the colonies for goods and services received and not yet paid for.

They take out a pound and put back a few pence and call it 'philantropy'. We must be thankful they say!

Those who make money like this out of us try to keep colonial and British people apart. They do this by telling the British people lies about us, trying to get them to fear and hate us, to see us as inferiors. And then shoot us down in Kenya, Malaya, Jamaica or Guiana.

But the rays of understanding and friendship inevitably penetrate this wall of prejudice and more and more of the British working class are realising that if you want to hold another man in the gutter you will also get yourself dirty.

Organisations representing millions of British people have passed resolutions calling for democratic rights in Guiana, such as the Co-operative Party and the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Yes, we look forward to and work for the day when we shall be free to build and live in our beautiful West Indian land, free from reproaches meted out to us as colonials. When our people will come to Britain as visitors and British people will come to the West Indies as visitors instead of rulers.

And such a day must come!

Jamaican got a job in three days

continuing the series on West Indians in British Industry

by

ARTHUR BROWN

IT IS ESTIMATED that there are some fifty-thousand West Indians employed in various branches of industry in Britain. The highest proportion is in engineering, but reasonable numbers can be found in the textile, transport, coal-mining food and clothing industries.

Yes, 50,000, the potential nucleus for an industrialised West Indies. What, one might ask, are the aims and aspirations of the majority of these people who have been driven from their homes and very often their families in search of the opportunity to earn a living?

The retort would express that fervent hope to return to their own country where they will be able to practice their skill in peace and security.

The System

Of course the islands of the West Indies cannot utilise their experience at present for several reasons. The most outstanding of which is that the colonial system obstructs local development.

What, then, are our problems in England? The two which contribute mostly to the frustration of the majority are (a) the problem of suitable employment and (b) living conditions.

Men and women complain bitterly about the tendency of some employers to keep them on jobs in which they cannot fully utilise their skill and are consequently less remunerative. The question of housing is a vexed one. This deliberate bare-faced exploitation has at times contributed to racial antagonism.

The tendency apparent at present, especially among those lately arrived and who have no trade or profession, is to take advantage of the unique opportunity available here to learn one or other of the various trades.

I spoke to a Jamaican who arrived in England on May Day with 100 others. He was fortunate enough to have got a job three days' after as a turner. He is happy and is acquainting himself with what he calls "the English way of turning." I asked him about the other workers' reaction to him. He agreed that he drew subtle comments and often a quick glance at his work. But all in all quite understandable.

Certain British Trade Unions are playing a tremendous part in securing the co-operation of the West Indians in the struggles for improving conditions. As a result, a number of West Indians represent English workers on Committees in factories, concerned with safeguarding what the workers have won over the centuries.

This pooling of common interest will not only contribute to the creation of better working conditions in England but will also assist in bringing about the development—industrially, economically and culturally—of the West Indies.

WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

United British Oilfields (T'dad)

WITH JUGGLERY that no Trinidadian could ever accomplish, U.B.O.T. was able to cut their provision for Taxation (1953) by nearly two-thirds, from £900,000 to £390,000 although they were paying out the same Ordinary Dividend as the year previous, that is, 10d. donation for each 6/8d. Stock Unit held by foreign parasites.

Imagine the very able Financial Secretary offering this FREE GIFT BONUS to the oilfield workers and their families?

Yes, this is how we assess the efficiency of the so-called Government! Who commands their loyalty? Who derives benefits as a result of their activities in office?

Ponder on these things; NETT PROFIT for 1953, for the foreign owners was close on Two Million West Indian dollars — (£374,800).
—controlled by Tate & Lyle Investments, Ltd.

★ ★

WEST INDIES SUGAR

THIS SUGAR monster of British economic life appears sprawled across the Caribbean, sucking blood, sweat and wealth from our beautiful islands.

The boys on the sugar estates are paying 1/4d. for every £1 Share held by the shareholders, back to the shareholders. Sounds all right eh? Last year we paid them 1/1d., so this year they get an increase of 23%—what do you think of a wage increase on that scale?

How justly could the £344,279 nett profit have been distributed? And no fooling, depreciation of £199,319 has already been allowed, taxation of £685,228 provided for, a further £74,629 for a variety of credits, and all £344,279 still left. Yes the sugar estate workers at Frome, Jamaica and other estates cut, loaded, ground, shipped 122,765 tons of sugar for the year.

B.G. CONSOLIDATED GOLDFIELDS

UNDER THE directorship of an unashamed Tory Member of Parliament, this 'dredge' has mined £7,986 as an operating profit, after the usual deductions (depreciation and amortization) amounting to £43,067.

The fancy terms mean that this company has put aside cash each year to allow for a replacement of machinery, and in the second place, compensate themselves on an artificial basis, within the terms of the Company's Act, on the principle that the investment, that is, the goldfields are wearing away and hence diminishing in value!

How the oilfield owners of Trinidad must scratch their fat bellies with glee! Their diminishing assets—the oil and pitch lakes—produce greater records each year!

Who gained from all this? Hardly the workers whose "housing in Trinidad would shock an R.S.P.C.A. man", as said Frederick Ellis, "Daily Express" City Editor in early April on his return from that sunspot.

No, its the saga boys of London's City clique who reap the benefit.

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Caribbean Youth Festival

AFTER THE great success of the National Festival of Guatemala, which took place from the 19th to 21st of February, preparations are being intensified for the regional Festival of young people of Central America and the Caribbean which will also take place in Guatemala during October 1954.

The youth of all countries of Central America and the Caribbean can participate. The programme contains sports and cultural competitions, open-air activities, demonstrations, excursions, songs, dances and discusions, etc.

Address of Organising Committee: Fernando Arias, President of the Initiative Committee, Pro-Fiesta de la Amistad et Hugo Barrios Kloc, General Secretary, 12 C.11 — 13-36, Guatemala.

Guiana Laughs at Savage — 'My wife and I'

A BIG SHOW is put on at the largest cinema in Georgetown — The Astor. The advertisement reads: "Tonight — 8 Savage Shows — My Wife and I — Bishop Ananias — Final King Calypso 1954 contest with our greatest Calypsonians — Hear 'Burnham-Jagan Arrival' . . . "

It is the night after the spectacular arrival of the P.P.P. Leaders — Jagan and Burnham from their tour of Britain and India. The two men accompanied by their wives, and former Minister of Labour, Ashton Chase, are there.

The show opens in typical Guianese fashion — 20 minutes late. Tom Charles Syncopators play a few numbers and then the Calypso contest begins. A few are not so good and the audience lets them know it. Likes and dislikes are open—no politeness with the Guianese audience who spend their few hard-earned pennies for good entertainment.

After a few contestants sing, the comic sketch "My Wife and I" begins. Sam Chase, Guiana's famous comedian, plays the part of the ruler who lived in the year 1597. He is dressed in cape and plumes. His wife, a male actor, wears hat, purse and gloves.

The sight of the two on the stage alone causes great hilarity, for no one is fooled by the date or the introductory remarks by Sam that they are portraying 'no one who ever lived, or is living or is likely to live".

'King Sweetness'

There was trouble in the country he ruled. The people were demanding more pay and better houses. The ruler's advisors came to him making many demands. The representative of commerce rushed in insisting that he do something to relieve the situation. "King Sweetness" made him sign a paper to settle all the trouble. The Church wasn't satisfied with the state of affairs and demanded that he do something immediately. Local politicians point out that they would govern less badly if only because no one could govern more badly. At every interview the ruler finally gives in saying: "My wife and I . . ." (This is Governor Savage's hackneyed statement).

The people's demands persist. The audience hears a voice say: "Who took my lorries. I'll not stand for this damned nonsense". (A statement reputed to have been made by Sydney King, then Minister of Communications).

Bold attack

In the middle of the satire, the ruler and his wife do a Scottish highland jig which almost brings down the house. Sam sings a song with verses like:—
"Who is sorry that all this happened—my wife and I";
"Who will miss me when I'm gone—my wife and I".

The little sketch is a bold attack on the Governor at a time when the Emergency Orders prevent real criticism. The people, who have no love for the man Savage are only too happy to show their scorn and dislike by laughing at him.

The other sketch, "Bishop Ananias", again portrayed by Sam Chase, ridicules a local 'bishop' who gave evidence before the Constitution Commission, saying that he overheard persons who were going to set fire to the city. This, he stated, he reported to the Attorney General. It is generally believed that this person's nonsensical statements were the cause of the fire plot charge against the P.P.P. in the White Paper. Sam deals with the bishop with his inimical humour.

Good meeting

'King Fighter', winner of the contest, sings a calypso about the P.P.P.—"We gonna vote PPP, for freedom and liberty, and end all slavery". This he has to sing twice while the large audience joins "We gonna vote PPP."

During an interval between two acts Sam ad libs—"This is just the 'interim'. During the interim nothing is real."

He announces: "I don't care what they do to me—but I must call upon our two great fighters to take a bow". Jagan and Burnham stand to a deafening applause.

As the people leave the Astor long after 11 p.m. they say: "We had a good P.P.P. meeting tonight."

BOOK WORLD

HERE IS A HERO OF THE PEOPLE

WHO AM I to attempt a criticism of Martin Carter's "Poems of Resistance" from Guiana? (Price 1/6d.; obtainable from Central Books, Ltd., 2, Parton Street, W.C.1.)

Well, these are not the poems that I learnt during my schooldays, they are of the New West Indies, when

> ' Mankind is breeding heroes every day,
> On high the scarlet banner flies aloft
> Below the earth re-echoes liberty! '

Martin Carter sings songs such as have been written where a nation was on the eve of liberation from oppression, but never before in my beloved West Indies.

We have had the students, we have had the 'literateurs'. Some have gone abroad and blossomed in new fields. Some have adopted new lands from sheer escapism, others have even deserted to win doubtful fame in a foreign setting.

For me an ordinary West Indian who never shone at school, but one who has inherited all the history of struggle that has been my people's lot, I can appreciate when this son of Negro slavery writes:—

> " This is what they do with me
> Put me in prison, hide me away
> Cut off the world, cut out the sun
> Darken the land, blacken the flower
> Stifle my breath and hope that I die!
> But I laugh at them—
> I laugh because I know they cannot kill me
> Nor kill my thoughts, nor murder what I write.
> I am a man living among my people
> Proud as the tree the axeman cannot tumble—
> So if my people live I too must live
> And they will live, I tell you they will live!"

★ ★

To repeat quotation after quotation would at best express my views on this pocket treasure that has come out of Guiana, but alas, this method would also destroy the long thread that is woven by Carter's pen.

For my friends the working-people I recommend you to read and enjoy this work, it belongs to our level because Carter is not writing in phoney exalted language. As the Hon. Sidney King of the P.P.P. said in the Foreword, "In a colony there is no room for 'intellectuals'. Everyone must be an activist."

THIS IS MARTIN CARTER, as he is today shuttered in a lousy colonial jail.

Billy Strachan

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Dignity in this 'Blues'

"THE AVERAGE earthling", wrote Dreiser in one of his autobiographical novels, "has frequently the greatest hesitation in revealing the net of flesh and emotion and human relationship into which he was born and which conditioned his early efforts at living and too often his subsequent place in life and society." Ethel Waters proves herself well above the average earthling in freedom from such hesitation, for her autobiography, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" (Published by W. H. Allen, 2/-) is an unvarnished account of the great actress-singer's struggle towards success in her two careers.

★

Ethel, born in Philadelphia in 1900, was a child of violence. Her father, a good-for-nothing playboy-pianist (with the connivance of Ethel's aunt), raped her mother one night at the point of a knife, subsequently disowning the issue and marrying someone else. Later he was poisoned by a jealous mistress (the wages of sin!) and Ethel grew up with her mother's family on the wrong side of the street—tipping off prostitutes on police raids, stealing food from green-grocers to make the money stretch, fighting off fresh old men—attending the Catholic Church.

The striking feature of her childhood is her precocity. She made her first public appearance as an entertainer at the age of five.

Her narration of near escapes from a lynch-crazy southern town is powerful, and the faithfulness with which she described her affair with a drug-addict among others adds a poignancy to her story. On page 19 she describes the Red Light District where she lived as a child.

"The prettiest sight in that whole neighbourhood came at dusk when the lights were turned on in the sporting houses. I'd stand on the street and look in with awe at the rich, highly polished furniture and the beautiful women sitting at the windows wearing low-cut evening gowns or kimonos."

Ethel Waters knew the pitfalls and she avoided them, but the pitfalls themselves she accepted. She sees the heart behind the 'devil's' masque and knows that the folks

folks in **Fifth** Avenue are no better than those in **Tenth** Avenue; it's just that some folks are up there, brother, and some folks . . . But that's life!

★

That, incidentally, is also **blues!** Idealisation of misfortune—the belief that all possible worlds are evil, anyway, so let's sing and be happy: I've got plenty of nothing and nothing is plenty to me.

This mock bravado in the face of life's troubles is not unnaturally an ingredient of her style.

But critics of blues often miss the affirmation of racial pride it contains.

"I have the soundest reasons for being proud of my people. We Negroes have always had such a tough time that our very survival in this white world with the dice always loaded against us is the greatest possible testimonial to our strength, our courage, and our immunity to adversity . . . Our greatest eloquence . . . comes when we lift up our faces to God, person to person. Ours is the truest dignity of man, the dignity of the undefeated."

That is the abiding impression of "His Eye is on the Sparrow", "the dignity of the undefeated."

Chris LeMaitre

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That man SIMMS!

—Security Forces Alerted

Rolly Simms, member of the C.L.C., has just returned to Jamaica with his wife, and has sent us the following News-letter:—

KINGSTON, JAMAICA:

"We are back on the rock after a quite eventful voyage.

"In Trinidad we were not allowed ashore. Lennox Pierre, John LaRose and Irma Hillaire were down to meet us, but they were kept a good distance from the ship by the police. But the police didn't reckon on the strength of my voice and Anne and I climbed up to the very front of the ship and carried on a conversation with them that Rance could probably have heard up at Government House.

CHEERING DOCKERS

"The dock workers began to gather around and I forgot about the boys and started addressing the workers. This made the white flunkey who was in charge of the police hopping mad, and he tried to move us off the deck.

"We laughed at him so he went to the Captain of the ship who sent the Chief Mate to move us. We told him we would leave in a few minutes when we were finished.

"No cargo was being taken up from the hold of the ship and it had only four hours to load and unload. I didn't know Anne had such a loud voice, boy it's really loud and hard. The captain ordered me to stop speaking; I made it plain that he would have to use violence to shut me up. He took the hint and didn't say a word to me again.

"The workers were listening intently but not showing any signs of their feelings, save a sly grin. They soon warmed up and were clapping and cheering even though the wharf was lined with ordinary police and customs police and secret service busybodies. I spoke on every subject I could think of, Guiana, Kenya, Malaya, Rance and Steel Bros. of Burma, the corruption of the British ruling-class, exploitation of the West Indies.

BARBADOS

"We were allowed ashore in Barbados. We called on the home of an old pen pal. I nearly fainted when I saw where he was living. He and his daughter were sharing one room about ten feet by eight. The only furniture was a table on which they cooked, and a couple of chairs. They slept on a contraption which I couldn't describe what made it. The girl was six years' old, but she did not laugh or play or even exhibit any curiosity which is natural in a child of that age. She just lay on the bed and looked at us, not even bothered by the flies that were crawling over her face.

STILL FIGHTING

I felt tremendous respect for a colleague who could in such conditions spend 1/6d. on a stamp.

"Many other youngsters form a spirited and enthusiastic crowd, that make up the Caribbean Christian Socialist Party.

"On the trade union front, there is a sharp rift between demagogic leaders, Grantley Adams on the one hand and another leading official on the other. An attitude of thinking that you can fool imperialism by clever manoeuvres is still rampant.

"As you walk through the streets of Bridgetown, you can hear of the terrific popularity of these young fighters—Grantley's power has been slipping at a tremendous rate."

HOME, SWEET HOME!

"We reached Kingston on Saturday 17th. The immigration Authorities put us on one side to wait, left the ship and came back with Middleton, the right-hand man of Keeley, the Security Police Chief.

"We had 19 pieces of luggage; they went through every piece. The only question Keeley asked me was whether I had any arms? Our tea-chest of china which was packed with masses of paper was delved into. Everything was really ransacked. I was taken into a room and searched. When they found nothing they went back for a second time into one of our grips. I attempted to take a photograph of them searching, so the customs officer jumped in to stop me.

"I raised my voice very loud at this and a sizeable crowd gathered around. The support from the people is really wonderful.

"Anne who had got quite irrate, loudly stated that she hoped they would find a time-bomb that would go off under their noses, and a worker replied, 'don't worry, one day they will'.

"Until we left, crowds of assembled unemployed workers were giving us encouragement—they understood this sharp lesson!"

NOTES FOR WOMEN

Time to move

IT HAS OFTEN been observed that West Indian women do not play a large enough part in the public life of their community. True, many of them indulge in activities described vaguely as "Social Work" but how many of them can rightly be called leaders. We have an example from British Guiana of the work which a woman can do—let us hope it inspires some of us to follow!

Women have been very much in the news recently. First there is the movement asking for equal pay for equal work. Women have been holding public meetings and recently in Hyde Park members of the public were invited to sign a petition which was presented to Parliament.

★ by JOYCE

About the same time that this question was being discussed we heard the sad news of the death of Lady Pethick-Lawrence who played such a large part in getting votes for women.

Although we do not need to fight for the vote there are so many other social and political questions on which West Indian Women could take action. For instance, why don't our domestic servants organise themselves. Spasmodic attempts have been made—most notably in British Guiana—but where are the women who will undertake the task of leading such a movement in other territories?

Ooh, Calaloo!

In London recently the Ideal Home Exhibition attracted huge crowds. We were particularly interested in the Women's Institutes section which put on a display of dishes from various parts of the world. There was a dish of Calaloo, the ingredients for which had been flown over from Trinidad. The disappointment was that we were not allowed to taste!

Having got on to the subject of food, I have been thinking what an important topic this is to us West Indians in England. Most of us have discovered out-of-the-way little shops where—after walking miles—we can buy some of the ingredients so dear to our hearts and stomachs! We then spend back-breaking hours in our little bed-sitting rooms struggling with gas rings to produce the food we get at home. After years of trial and error in tackling this problem, I have come to the conclusion that the best plan is to buy ordinary English food—yes, cabbage and potatoes! — and cook them with imagination.

ONE BIG PRISON

★ from page 1

(Out of a total of 36 registered dentists only 19 are effective practitioners, which gives one dentist to about 24,000 persons. This average is even increased since 14 practise in Georgetown and 4 in New Amsterdam).

Dr. Jagan, in a letter to the Governor, protested against the restriction of his movements. "This is a flagrant violation of my democratic and civil rights as a citizen of Guiana. I have neither committed nor have been charged for any crime. In addition, this restriction denies me the opportunity of pursuing my professional calling".

Mass Arrests

He applied for permission to visit his dental clinics on April 3rd, and added — "I wish to notify you that should this permission be withheld I would be forced to disobey the order restricting my movements. This application being refused, he left for Mahaicony.

Dr. Jagan was arrested over 40 miles from Georgetown and brought to Police Headquarters in the city, where he was held for two days and two nights without bail. On the day after his arrest, Police locked up his wife, General Secretary of the P.P.P., Martin Carter and Rory Westmaas (detailed at Atkinson Field for 81 days from October) and six other Party members who led a demonstration around Police Headquarters protesting against his arrest.

Huge crowds assembled around the Magistrate's Court on the 5th of April, when the 10 were brought to court. The trials were postponed and they were released on bail. The police earlier had arrested 20 persons, charging them with disorderly behaviour. Twenty minutes after his release, Dr. Jagan was again arrested along with 12 others, charged with holding an illegal procession as thousands followed them down the streets.

Representing himself on the charge of breaking the restriction orders, Dr. Jagan entered no plea before Magistrate Sharples, who incidentally, is the brother of Dr. Sharples who was defeated by Dr. Jagan in the 1953 elections.

"To enter a plea of guilty or not guilty would be to presume the validity or justice of the Emergency Orders." After exposing filthy cell conditions where he and 16 others were kept in a 10 x 12-ft. cell, he went on to state "I do not recognise the Emergency Orders. It saw birth in the minds of fascists who are prepared to take away the rights of the people willy-nilly . . . This is a court of law, not a court of justice . . . I do not expect justice in this or any court. Justice has been dead since the British troops landed in this country.

"Today the whole country is a vast prison. Whether I am outside or inside doesn't matter very much. Prison holds no terror for me . . . I am looking for the day when there will be a greater justice in this country . . ."

Tear Gas

Dr. Jagan was immediately sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

In the week following the arrest of Dr. Jagan, over seventy persons were arrested on various charges including disorderly behaviour, holding illegal processions and meetings, assault, etc. One demonstration involving arrests was a march of women before Government House.

The police used tear gas in the Party Headquarters on the 7th, closing down the office and posting armed guards. However, another office was opened in another part of Georgetown on the following day.

The police, in a determined effort to smash the People's Progressive Party, had carried out frequent raids on Party Headquarters prior to closing it down, carrying off all Party property. The printery which works for the Party was closed down for 24 hours and armed guards posted. There has been some relaxation in that the printery is now opened, but still guarded—and the printer warned not to work for the P.P.P.

Estate Strikes

The scene shifted to the country, where several spontaneous strikes had already occurrred on the sugar estates. At Port Mourant over 65 workers were arrested and tear gas used as they protested at the arrest of Dr. Jagan. As the police carried away only a few of the demonstration leaders, others jumped on the police lorries, demanding to be arrested with their comrades. Forty-five refused bail That area was then proclaimed by the Governor.

Immediately after Dr. Jagan's arrest, Mr. Burnham, Chairman of the P.P.P., was served with a restriction order, bringing the total number thus restricted to ten. He refused to comply with the section requiring him to report to the police twice weekly, and on April 10th most of the restricted persons refused to report.

On the Queen's birthday, the people wore mourning colours as a sign of protest.

Thus, leading the campaign of defiance of the Emergency Laws which deny the people of Guiana their legitimate rights, Dr. Jagan became the first political leader to take voluntary imprisonment in British Guiana.

FIGHTING VIET NAM

DIEN BIEN PHU is a name which will echo in the ears of imperialists whenever and wherever they assemble to contemplate their contemptible gambles.

Indo-China comprises three states — Viet Nam, inhabited by the Annamese, who are three-quarters of the Indo-China union population, Cambodia and Laos.

Of these three fertile lands, Viet Nam is the most important. Subdued by Imperial China at the beginning of the Christian era, its inhabitants gallantly agitated and fought until A.D. 931 when the Annamese independence was achieved.

For 856 years the rich culture of these magnificent people found expression in their song, music, arts and temples of the most stimulating beauty.

French Entry

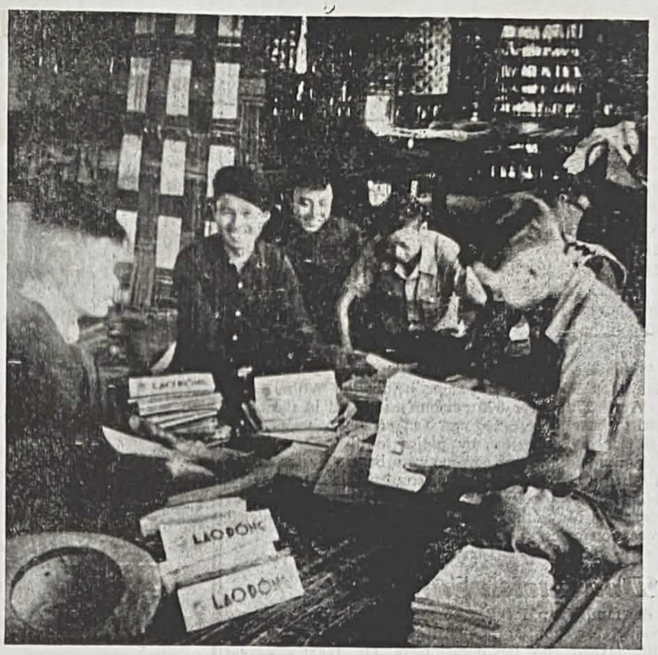
Unaware of the wicked and vicious designs of the French they lived and were happy. The year 1787 meant for the Annamese people their first encounter with French imperialism. For in that year on a religious pretext France intervened in Southern Annam.

The French administration weighed heavily with a tyrannic yoke. All industrialisation was prohibited, the traditional education was suppressed, resulting in an increase in illiteracy to the fantastic figure of 80 per cent. of the population.

After the collapse of France in 1940, Japan replaced France as the principal buyer of Indo-China's coal, iron, rubber, phosphates and rice.

Indo-China was forced to buy increasingly from Japan The year 1941 saw Indo-China drafted into the yen block by the signing of the Japan—Indo-China Economic Agreement. This completely one-sided agreement provided free entry into Indo-China of 40 Japanese products and minimum duties on 400 others.

The liberation of Viet Nam from the Japanese took place in August 1945, and in January 1946 democratic elections in the country resulted in the setting up of a Provisional Government with French recognition. This Government was under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh.



A distribution centre for the journal 'Laodong' (Labour), organ of the Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour

Now a note on the "respectable" gentleman known as President Bao Dai.

by J. VASS JACKSON

In August 1945 he relinquished his title as Emperor of Annam to participate in the progressive reconstruction of his country. The rigours of an honest existence being less scintilating than the gambling tables of Hong Kong, we find our "honest" Emperor deserting to Hong Kong.

The reckless adventurers responsible for the formulating of French policy, backed by the American disgust of democracy that does not conform to the China Lobby's interpretation, decided to regain the mineral wealth of Viet Nam at the expense of liberty.

So again the battle-scarred people faced an enemy. On September 25th, 1946 the French colonialists launched this war.

The discredited Bao Dai who was rescued from the stagnant mire of Hong Kong and installed by the French as head of the Viet Nam State.

The people of Saigon greeted the gesture with demonstration and a general display of their anger. Bao Dai then returned to his mountain resort, where he rested for nine months.

U.S. Greed

During this period the senor partner in this conspiracy, the U.S.A., was active behind the scene.

America's roving Ambassador, Dr. Jessup, visited Hanoi in December 1949.

The "New York Times" of 11th February, 1950, wrote:—

"Indo-China is really worth staking on. Its northern part can export tin, wolfram, zinc, manganese, coal, timber and rice.

"Its southern part produces rice, rubber, tea and leather—from the military point of view Indo-China is also of high strategic importance."

To this one needs to add the fact that from bases in Indo-China, Japan during World War II was able to penetrate Siam, Southern China and Singapore, and you will clearly see the reasons for this unwarranted interference with the life of these people.

Why is it that a country of 90 per cent. peasants has engaged and kept at bay the military might of France and America for over eight years? Because they are fighting for their land and their freedom.

Achievements

They have faith in the leadership of the Lao Dong Party, their party created out of their suffering. A government which in four years reduced the legacy of illiteracy from 90 per cent. to 32 per cent., increased the number of school classes by 96,711, establishing primary schools in every village, reducing land rents and interest at the same time.

Yes, Dien Bien Phu shall live forever and from this remote spot lying majestically in its picturesque setting, a monument shall reach up into the air attesting to the noble and glorious besiegers, men and women who laid siege to a citadel of capitalist military might, striking a blow for peace, for which the latter half of the 20th century will always be remembered.

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

We're winning

"We shall be wise if we avoid the mistake of endeavouring to withold a concession ultimately inevitable until it has been robbed by delay of most of its usefulness and of all its grace"— so said Lord Halifax, when as Major Wood he visited the West Indies on behalf of the Colonial Office, during 1921.

Long time ago that, and the woolheads can't see that nothing will stop us. The fight is raging, the Jagans are imprisoned, Joshua of St. Vincent, LaRose and Barrett of Trinidad, Smith, Daphne Campbell, Hart of Jamaica, Price and Goldson of British Honduras are front rank leaders that are now hounded by police and military.

These leaders are only the 'seven heads' of the restless dragon that spreads across the Caribbean—so in the fable, so in the islands, seven new heads replace each single fallen crown, and so on . . .

Useful tips

Here is the basis for Tony Wedgewood-Benn's futility which he expressed to Johnny Jackson and myself as we argued on to midnight in the lobby of the House of Commons a week or so ago. This was after a Socialist Medical Association discussion on Health in the colonies.

Mr. Wedgewood-Benn, M.P. for a Bristol Constituency recognised the intense ill-will that existed between the colonial peoples and Britain. He saw no satisfactory rapprochment possible. Poor man of doom, who a week later I see is in the leadership of a Movement for Colonial Independence set up in London by a group of Labour Members of Parliament. Between us, Johnny and I gave him some tips, roughly in this order of precedence:

(a) Withdraw all British troops from colonial territories;

(b) Recognise the right of the local peoples to elect their own representatives to their own Policy-making Council;

(c) Establish friendly ambassadorial relations; **and**

(d) Offer the hand of friendship and real assistance, in the way of mutual exchange of trade, interest free loans, interchange of technical and educational facilities, and a Treaty of Solidarity against any military aggression.

Young Tony was taken aback, and could only reply, ". . . not so quickly, young men."

Let us hope that this is not the attitude of the Movement for Colonial Independence.

People's Police

Imagine the Colonial Secretary's jealousy when he reads this little anecdote.

Returning from a very successful evening after a C.L.C. dance at the Royal Hotel my companion was a male, for a change! His exuberance was equally as high and he told me how he was reminded of similar P.P.P. social events in Guiana.

From this, to recounting his home experiences in recent years. He was formerly a policeman. He used to attend P.P.P. public meetings at Bourda and throughout Guiana, accompanied by 194 or more constables to keep order where no disorder ever occurred within his memory.

Result: 60 to 70 per cent. of all cops who attended in the course of duty returned to barracks, converted to the banner of the P.P.P.

So much for the Police Action. Carry on Lyttelton!

BRITISH PROTEST

HAYES, MIDDLESEX branch of the Electrical Trades Union, has sent the following resolution on Br. Honduras to the Colonial Secretary and local M.P.s:

"The Branch protests against the action of Mr. Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, in suspending the elections in British Honduras. It demands that full democratic rights are given to the people of British Honduras; that they are granted the right to elect a government of their own chosing."

Note.—Elections were not suspended, but this resolution shows support that exists in wide sections of British labour movement for colonial freedom and justice.

GUIANA NEWS BRIEFS

FOLLOWING Dr. Jagan's sentence of six months' imprisonment several persons demonstrated at Plantation Port Mourant. Sixty-five persons were arrested, police used tear gas and the area of Berbice was proclaimed. Later, women participated in a sit down strike, refusing to disperse on police orders. When the cases were called to court, women marched in protest against the Emergency Laws. The majority of those arrested refused bail.

When the cases against the sixty-five persons from Plantation Port Mourant came before the Whim Court on April 27th, over 800 persons assembled in the court yard to hear the proceedings. Ten persons were arrested and tear gas was used by police to disperse the non-violent crowd. Several persons were beaten by the police in a baton charge. The crowd, consisting mostly of East Indian women, refused to move during the tear gas attack. On May 4th, the Magistrate dismissed the illegal procession cases.

'Down with Savage'

Bertrand Yhap, P.P.P. member charged with disorderly conduct for shouting "God Bless Cheddi Jagan; Down with Savage" on the occasion of Dr. Jagan's second arrest was found guilty and fined $50 or two months' imprisonment. He chose imprisonment.

Barrister Rudy Luck was taken to prison on May 3rd to serve two months for refusing to sign a bond of $100. He was charged for disorderly conduct and assaulting a police officer when, on April 7th, after a tear gas attack on the Party's Headquarters, he came to assist in locking up the office. The Police later withdrew the assault charge and the Magistrate ordered that he be placed on a $100 bond. Announcing that he refused to sign the bond, Mr. Luck was given ten days by the court to do so.

Press attack

Following an accusation by the press and the pulpit that the People's Progressive Party was guilty of painting slogans on city churches and desecrating a bible in Smith's Memorial Church, the Party issued a denial noting that it had every reason to believe the acts to be committed by enemies of the Party in efforts to discredit the organisation. This denial has been attacked by all three of the newspapers.

After this press attack on the Party, the Police have carried out over thirty raids on private homes and two raids on the Party's new Headquarters. The Party's weekly paper "Thunder" came out for the first time on April 26th after a two week delay caused by police scrutiny of articles. Yesterday the guards at the Arcade Printery and the Party Headquarters were removed. The Party Executive has been granted police permission to meet.

Police have raided the New Amsterdam and Rose Hall Branch Offices of the P.P.P., the home of former Assemblywoman, Jane Gray, and the offices of the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union.

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League Runner-up

THE MERSEYSIDE West Indian Society extended its efforts with the aim of closer co-operation among West Indians on Merseyside by forming a cricket section last season.

The teams, consisting of men from all the islands and Guiana, were captained by F. Noel of Trinidad, and F. Rodney of Jamaica. The final position found the team as runners-up for the Lewis Cup in Liverpool and District Cricket League.

This was no 'walk-over', and it must be remembered that they were only beaten after a replay by the team which has been League Champions and Cup holders for many years—the Kirkdale C.C.

For the 1954 season there will be two teams, an 'A' and 'B'. There will be a strengthened leadership too, as Noel has been joined by Roach, Rhoden and Simmonds.

We wish both teams a good season's cricket.

Powerful May Day

Six thousand workers marched in the traditional May Day Celebrations after police permission was granted to the Trade Unions on the morning of May Day. The Police gave permission on condition that no political placards be used, no political speeches be made and an alteration of the traditional May Day route through the working class districts.

Mounted police, police lorries and jeeps, police inspectors and plain clothes security police were seen in large numbers. They carried the procession through the least populated areas of the city. The procession was led by leaders of the country's most powerful Trade Unions —Transport Workers' Union, Post Office Workers' Union, British Guiana Labour Union and the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union. Mr. Jackson, President of the Post Office Workers' Union, moved the following resolution:—

"Be it Resolved that this May Day gathering of workers pledge itself to fight for: 1. The establishment of democratic rights, civil liberties and a representative government; 2. The recognition of trade unions fully representative of the workers; 3. Increased wages and salaries to meet the high cost of living and improvement in the standard of living of the workers; 4. Continued support for colonial and other workers fighting capitalist oppression and exploitation in their lands; 5. The formation of one strong, central trade union organisation fully representative of the trade union movement.

While the six thousand marched, a handful of trade unionists belonging to the recently established breakaway T.U.C. met in a hall.

Seventeen persons were arrested at Plantation Skeldon following a May Day demonstration.

CARIBBEAN DAY
SUNDAY, 27th. JUNE

The 7th. Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) will take place at

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CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

July ★ 1954

Forbidden Freedom

by CHEDDI JAGAN

page 3

WHY THE YANKEE ATTACK ON GUATEMALA

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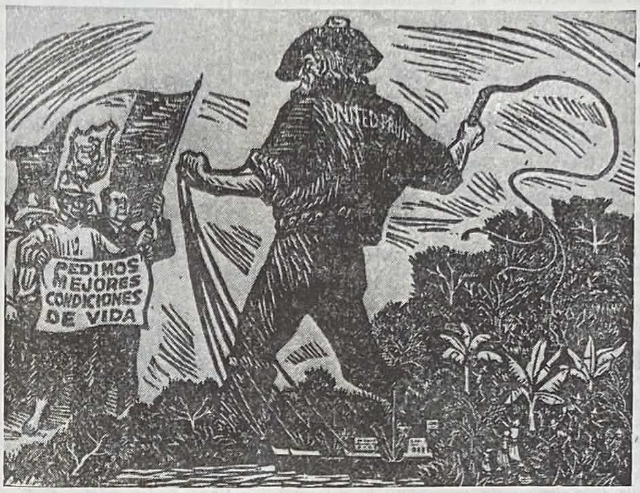
SOUTH AMERICA


UNITED
PEDIMOS MEJORES CONDICIONES DE VIDA

Guatemalan workers opposed by the giant figure representing the United Fruit Co. say on the banner 'We are asking for better living conditions'

AFTER two weeks of armed assault and intrigue, the United States of America has conquered Guatemala and has rooted out the democratic government. All democrats are now being hunted.

The world knows that little Guatemala was wantonly invaded by an army of mercenaries, put up by the U.S.A. to restore the old conditions of oppression and dictatorship.

These foot-loose gunmen, based in Honduras and Nicaragua, have been armed by the United States to overthrow a legitimate government, and the United Nations resolved (on a vote cast by such representative democrats as Chiang Kai Shek) to do nothing but refer the case to the Organisation of American States. A week before this, the U.N. decided to send observers to Siam, on the grounds that she is threatened by aggression from Indo-China. For alleged threats, action is taken. For proven aggression, nothing!

The phantastic argument runs (a) that Guatemala was communist controlled, (b) that she was a threat to the rest of the Americas.

What are the facts? After winning her independence from Spain in 1823 Guatemala was ruled by a succes-

★

continued on page 5

'QUEEN VICTORIA' BLOWN UP

FOLLOWING the blowing up of a statue of Queen Victoria on May 25th, on the grounds of the Victoria Law Courts, the special reserve police have been called out. Armed police guard numerous city buildings. The police have intensified their searches and on the 26th May the homes of six prominent members of the P.P.P. including Messrs. Westmans, Carter, Bowman and Mrs. Jagan were raided. The newspapers carry rumours of the possibility of the introduction of the curfew in the still proclaimed areas of British Guiana.

Jamaican workers go slow

SILOAH, June 4th — A unanimous decision to intensify the "Go-slow" movement on the Appleton - Raheen Sugar Estate was taken at a members' meeting held here today and attended by over 300 small cane farmers and workers on the property.

Already the go-slow action of the workers have caused the present crop to be two months short of fulfilment. In addition, it has won for the small cane farmers, owning 1-5 acres and previously boycotted by the management because of union activities, increased sale of cane to the estate.

With this action successfully carried out, hundreds of peasant farmers who cannot ordinarily be classified as wage earners, have been won over to the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions.

At a mass meeting at Appleton on 5th June, over three thousand workers heard Ferdinand Smith, Richard Hart, Rolly Simms, and local organiser and Secretary Don Horne, reiterate the programme of the S.A.W.U. to win the wage demands and recognition of their trade union.

In his address Ferdinand Smith urged the workers to join the S.A.W.U. in order to face the employers in the coming crop with a strengthened union to continue the struggle.

Expressing full support for the S.A.W.U.'s programme, the meeting adopted a resolution calling for (1) that a conference to continue and intensify the go-slow movement on Appleton cane farms be convened, and (2) a membership campaign to continue the struggle through the planting and weeding period to lay the base for the 1955 crop struggle.

Another meeting of over 2,000 workers at Union Square also approved the resolution unanimously.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

GUATEMALA

WHEN is aggression aggression and when is it not aggression? A brief answer can be given. Aggression is not aggression when it is committed by the United States and its satellites. That is the definition of aggression by the countries boasting the so-called Western Way of Life. It is the peculiar language of the gangster.

The big bully of North America has conquered tiny Guatemala with its three million people, and United States imperialism has been appeased. The "wrong has been righted" in the interest of the international gangster.

Exultantly, American muscle man Dulles declares that the overthrow of Guatemala's elected democratic government is a "new and glorious" victory.

Yes, how glorious for Yankee imperialism to root out democratic reforms in Guatemala, to roll back the workers' and peasants' wages and conditions, break up trade unions and destroy democratic liberties!

The American rulers stand condemned before the eyes of the world. We recall that when they invaded Korea they hastily summoned a Security Council meeting in the absence of the Soviet delegate, branded North Korea an aggressor without any evidence, and attacked North Korea even before the U.N. sanctioned it.

But when it comes to Guatemala it's a different matter.

The underlying thread is the same—American aggression in Korea, American aggression in Guatemala.

World domination

The grotesque nature of barbarous Yankee aspirations for world domination came out clearly when Cabot Lodge, U.S. representative at U.N., told the Soviet delegate to keep out of "our hemisphere". Fitting slogan for U.S. imperialism would be "The World is our Hemisphere." For they regard it as their God-given right to meddle in the affairs of Asia, Europe, Africa and South America.

Of course, the Chinese could equally say the same to the Americans, namely that Korea and Indo-China are in their "hemisphere".

But then the Chinese are only ordinary human beings. We all are expected to know, however, that the American gangster rulers have been ordained the sacred duty of overlording us poor mortals who try to get ahead.

Guatemala was similar in many respects to British Guiana. In both countries a democratic government had been elected. Guatemala actually carried out reforms to benefit the people. In Guiana, the democratic government tried to bring about reforms but were ousted from office.

The monster United Fruit Company, of which John Foster Dulles is a shareholder, dominates the economic life of Guatemala, just as Bookers dominate the economic life of Guiana.

It was to keep Guiana safe for Bookers exploitation that British cruisers and troops were sent to depose the elected Jagan government.

And it is to make Guatemala safe for the Yankee U.F. Company that the U.S. ruling circles have attacked and overthrown the popular Arbenz government, and instituted once again a dictator clique pledged to lick the boots of the Yankee boss.

Shameful role

Guatemala has been sacrificed to the aggressors as the liberal government of Spain was 16 years ago. The United States is today playing the part of Hitler Germany and Mussolini Italy.

The British Government has acted shamefully and in collusion with the Yankees.

First, banning arms shipments to Guatemala, then abstaining in the vote at U.N., Churchill's Government joined the U.S. in killing Guatemalan freedom.

For us in the West Indies, we must draw an important lesson. Which is, that both British and American ruling circles are our deadly enemies. Neither is better than the other as far as we are concerned. We cannot hold any illusion that the Americans will help free us from our British oppressors.

Only to the extent that we unite and use our own strength will we win our freedom.

Dulles maintained silence until his forces won their victory in Guatemala. Then he blared forth in praise of his aggression.

But Dulles and United Fruit shall not have the last word. The freedom-loving people of Guatemala now oppressed by tyrants, hunted, jailed and murdered, will continue their struggle against formidable odds, and will in the end achieve their liberty.

We join hands with them—our Guatemalan brothers—in our common struggle for independence.

Now it's St. Vincent's turn to have a bash

By Arthur Brown

THE TINY Caribbean Island of St. Vincent goes to the Poll to elect a new Legislative Council on August 16th. Of course, there is nothing new in having elections under restricted Constitutions.

If, however, this one, like so many others lately, has unintentionally struck the attention of people far and wide, it is simply because it might be necessary after the elections for the "terror of Whitehall", Oliver Lyttelton, to dismiss the elected House.

A sure sign of how shaky the whole administration is can be seen from the fact that two months ago the Island's most militant labour leader and elected councillor was removed from his seat on the Executive Council. This was achieved by a Motion put forward by a rival trade union leader, himself a councillor, and supported almost entirely by the elected members, and completely by the nominated officials.

This Motion alleges that Mr. Joshua was not working in the best interest of the Island's workers, and by virtue of the fact that he attended a W.F.T.U. conference in Vienna in 1953, accuses him of being an agent of a foreign power.

Of course, no supporter of the Motion during the debate gave any explanation as to the status of British Imperialism, whether it was local or foreign. Nevertheless, no one could claim, except for dishonest reasons, that exploitation such as exists in St. Vincent is done by Vincentians or in the interest of St. Vincent.

Thus the situation is created in which Patriots are accused by imperialist stooges of representing foreign interests, apparently for the purpose of fooling the masses.

Red bogey

And so, following the now established pattern, the "red bogey" is invoked. To bring home to the people of St. Vincent the dangers of communism, the importation of a Mr. Marcano, Secretary of the Caribbean Area of O.R.I.T. (an off-shoot of the I.C.F.T.U.) was necessary.

This gentleman, as was to be expected, found evidence of communism and warned against the consequences of showing any liking for it. It is clear that these dangers referred to emanate from the policy of the People's Political Party of which Mr. Joshua is President, also that of the Agricultural Workers' Union which has consistently fought to bring about the complete unity of workers, small farmers, and small business people.

Herein lies the crux of the stooges' hysteria, and likewise the solution to the multitude of problems that for generations have beset this Island of 71,000 people. Yes, 71,000 people with a potential working population of 35,000 and an unemployment figure of 29,000. The legacy of years of foreign rule.

In a press statement shortly after his arrival, Mr. Marcano remarks: "The world's problem today is not one of over-production, but of uneven distribution" (apparently reflecting on the vast stocks of food held by the U.S. Government after seeing hunger and poverty first-hand). "This problem must be solved here (St. Vincent) to stave off communism."

Maybe the masses of St. Vincent don't know the productive capacity of the world. Maybe they'll not know the true position for some time, through illiteracy and the banning of books and newspapers that could tell them. But one thing is certain and that is that they want a better life and are aware of how to achieve it.

The vicious attack on Joshua coupled with recent events in British Guiana and British Honduras have played no small part in bringing success to the People's Political Party and the Federated Agricultural and Industrial Workers' Union.

Rough and rugged

"The way ahead is rough and rugged. Industrial and agricultural development must be relentlessly pursued to avert catastrophy. We feel our's is the way to achieving that. And in spite of all the difficulties and disadvantages our Party and Union are confronted with, our policy is the one that will survive the slush that the election campaign will undoubtedly ferment."

Such is the mood of the people's leaders. We have no doubt that this policy will be endorsed on August 16th by a people who know only too well what past Governments representing foreign interests have cast upon them.

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JAMAICA THOUGHT CONTROL

KINGSTON. Subsequent to police invasion of their homes between March 20th and 31st, Daphne Campbell and Harold Drayton, delegates to the World Youth Festival in Rumania last year, were convicted recently in the Resident Magistrate's Court and fined a total of £30 or four months' imprisonment for having "undesirable publications" in their possession.

Campbell was fined £10 or two months in prison for having a copy of the progressive West Indian newspaper "Caribbean News", while Drayton was ordered to pay £20 or serve two months in jail for being in possession of a clipping from the working-class paper "For A Lasting Peace".

Rolly Simms, returning home after ten years in Europe, five of which were spent in active service against German fascism, has been fined £10 for importing "undesirable publications". The charge against his wife, Anne Simms, was dropped by prosecution.

Electric Strike

Georgetown, British Guiana.

A GANG OF Georgetown, British Guiana, workers at the Demerara Electric Company struck for five hours on Saturday, 12th June, in protest against the Company's refusal to recognise their union (the B.G. Labour Union, Secretary: Ashton Chase). Demands for pay increases have been made but the Company refused to have any dealings with the B.G. Labour Union.

Instead the workers were told to join the M.P.C.A. The latter has been negotiating with the employers to end the dispute in spite of being vigorously rejected by the workers. Two years ago the workers left the M.P.C.A. which they described as a company union and joined the B.G. Labour Union which has a majority of the workers as members.

* * *

The "Daily Argosy" and the "Guiana Graphic" have editorially demanded the banning of the P.P.P.'s official organ "Thunder". Police guard the "Thunder" Printery twenty-four hours daily.

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CALLING JAMAICA!!
CALLING TRINIDAD!!!
—and look out the rest of you.

Sir Alexander Roger, K.C.I.E., Chairman of the TELEPHONE AND GENERAL TRUST, has a special message for all West Indians.

In his report to the 28th Annual General Meeting of his colleagues who own our public telephone circuit, he tells them that thanks to the high rate that we pay for the privilege of allowing him to invest in our territories, he is able to encourage them by paying out:

a. £10 for every £100 invested in the £1,000,000 Ordinary Stock; this also applies to the holders of what is fancifully called 'A' Ordinary Stock.

b. he has also a gift of a £1 Fully Paid Share for every holder, who already has £10 in Ordinary or 'A' Ordinary Stock—subject to Treasury consent?

Any wonder folks why your telephones cost so much? Remember, also, who are really the beneficiaries from increased charges when next the telephone linesmen and operators come out on strike for higher wages.

Yes, sir, this abortion of capitalism has in the words of the Chairman, "substantial holdings in Telephone Properties, Ltd."

It is from this Trust, that the JAMAICA Telephone Co. have borrowed so far to the extent of £346,000. So in TRINIDAD, the telephone company is in debt to this Trust, to the tune of £188,560 at December 31st, 1953. The story is repeated in BARBADOS, with their debt at £67,700.

Mighty fine business, and we pay. For 1953, we earned for Sir Roger, etc., the tidy sum of £104,620 nett profit, after charging taxation.

We are the countries that our British task-masters tell us are unable to support ourselves on our present economy. Whose fault?

Booker's Rake-off

"FOR BOOKERS, 1953 was altogether a most anxious and difficult year", said Mr. J. M. Campbell, chairman of Booker Brothers McConnell & Co., Ltd.

Addressing the shareholders on June 4th, the chairman, as he announced the splitting of the spoils, torn from Guiana, paid this tribute to Dr. Cheddi Jagan and the People's Progressive Party.

True, the **nett** profits exceeded two and a half million dollars (£507,556), and there has been a nett increase in Current Assets by another 2¼ million dollars (£450,000), but face up to it, the workers have fought back and we have this backhanded compliment.

Of course this businessman prattles a lot of phoney economics, similar to that which students from Guiana and other colonies pay a lot of money to learn. Campbell, referring to the dividend, said: ". . . and if distributed among the sugar workers on Bookers' estates would only result in a wages increase of 5 per cent."

What's wrong with that?

But what a lot of tosh! What about the allowances for directors, the tax paid to the British Chancellor of the Exchequer?

After more dribble, Mr. Campbell, the proud Chairman, with tongue in his cheek, states: "We would welcome a progressive Gobernment of Guianese for Guianese, a Government able to offer leadership, generate confidence, harmonize the qualities and the aspirations of the African, Indian, and other peoples there, and create the conditions in which Bookers—and other providers of the external capital and skills which British Guiana will need for many a day—could play their full part for the good of all."

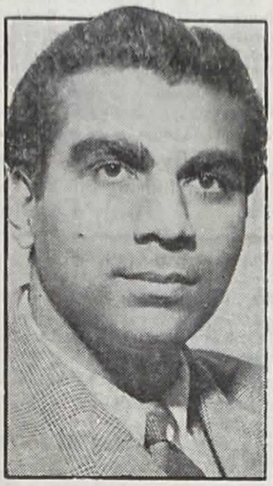
Take these words to heart, Guiana — This can be Bookers' Grave, and Campbell foresees his doom — it's up to you NOW!

BOOK WORLD

Forbidden Freedom

The Story of Guiana — by Cheddi Jagan

THOSE WHO have met the author of this book or heard him speak will know his passionate sincerity and love of his country. These two qualities of his one feels go no small way to explaining the success of the political party which he leads in British Guiana.



★
Cheddi Jagan
★

But whatever personal qualities a politician may have, these are no substitute for an understanding of the social and economic conditions against which people living in a colony have ceaselessly to struggle.

We soon feel that Dr. Jagan shares, and is outraged by, the sufferings of the Guianese people, but that he knows their origin and knows, too, that they can only be ended by the combined efforts of the people. Hence the complete absence in Dr. Jagan's book of those messianic claims which so mark the speeches and behaviour of many leaders of the national movement in the British West Indies.

One result of this approach is this book — the first attempt to analyse conditions and political activity in the Caribbean from a Marxist point of view. For that reason one could have wished that the author had given us in more detail some of his Party's methods of work among the Guianese people. He shows us enough of the difficulties the Party has to overcome among a poor and largely illiterate peasantry in a community where for a century and more the planters have tried, not without success, to create antagonism between Indian and Negro workers on grounds of so-called race.

How these difficulties were overcome and how Indians, Negroes, Portuguese and others came to support the P.P.P. as Guianese and workers, is, we are sure, an exciting story not without valuable lessons for other territories in the Caribbean and elsewhere in the British Empire.

We hope that Dr. Jagan will come back to this theme one day and give us a clearer picture of opposing classes and personalities, manoeuvres and strategy. For though the British Government prompted from outside has for a time thwarted the efforts of the Guianese people to put an end to their terrible living conditions, the wishes of that people must in the end prevail. It will help if not only they, but others . . . have at their disposal further studies of their country of which this book is, we hope, a token.

Peter Blackman

Published by Lawrence & Wishart.   Price 3/6

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Those Trade Union Experts

I HAVE just read a very attractive little booklet, for the paltry price of SIXPENCE, whose gaily coloured cover, could easily lead to wrong impressions.

Seductively decorated, with a slit-eyed mask, the title is splashed in the mysterious styled lettering of the East–

It is a true story of some wicked men who have plotted, schemed and bedevilled millions of ordinary people. There's a lot of trickery, plenty of double-crossing and the author JACK WODDIS, an Englishman, has prepared a wealth of facts about some very strange Englishmen who work in the West Indies and every other colony. Ever heard of a Labour Adviser?

"THE MASK IS OFF" * is a fitting title for an exposure of another technique to fool our people.

So often many of our folk sneer at the trade union; because of its comparative youth to us colonials we can easily underestimate its value—but if we do, the British Government doesn't!

What of this excerpt from an official Government directive in 1950 in Malaya; outlining the duties of the Trade Union Adviser:

> "to keep the Government constantly informed of all developments in the Trade Union movement within the Federation by means of regular, up-to-date and factual reports; to bring immediately to the notice of the Government any events or activities which are observed whether on the part of individuals or organisations, whether inside or outside of the Trade Union Movement, which are considered to be prejudicial to the development of sound trade unionism in the Federation; to inform . . . "

As Jack Woddis concludes, "nowhere, from start to finish of the seventeen points listed in this official Government directive to the Trade Union Adviser in Malaya, is there a single word about assisting workers to obtain higher wages, shorter hours, better conditions of work, security of employment or a proper system of social security."

This is a real rich encyclopaedia of the tricks and traps set for us as we develop our Trade Union Movement. We must be on guard; it is not only serious for the trade unionist, but for every working man or woman, in fact **ALL** our people.

We pay a heavy price for colonialism, every one of us, the barrister, the businessman, the banana worker, and in this moment of imminent danger Jack Woddis gives a word of timely advice:

> "All workers are brothers, and all have the same basic interests. They suffer a common oppression, and are exploited by the same enemy, imperialism. All workers, whatever their religious or political views, however advanced or backward their understanding may be, are exploited and in consequence suffer dire poverty and misery. It is, therefore, possible to unite the entire working-class against this exploitation, and to end poverty and misery. UNITY OF THE WORKING-CLASS IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE—IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL."

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* A THAMES publication obtainable from the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH, at 3, Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

W.F.T.U. Acts on Guiana

A MEMORANDUM submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions to the Secretary General of the United Nations on March 20th, 1954, stated:—

The World Federation of Trade Unions(in protesting against the infringements of trade union rights in British Guiana, considers that these infringements are closely bound up with the general attacks by the British authorities on the rights and liberties of the people of this country.

It draws attention to the fact that one of the pretexts for the arbitrary measures taken by the authorities was the presentation by the duly elected government of a bill giving the trade unions the right, on the basis of properly and democratically organised elections, to represent the workers in negotiations concerning collective agreements.

It protests against the decree issued on December 16th 1953 by the governor banning the entry into British Guiana and distribution of all publications of the World Federation of Trade Unions. This measure flatly contradicts the right of trade union organisations to maintain links with international organisations. Furthermore it is a flagrant violation of freedom of the press.

The W.F.T.U. demands the withdrawal of this measure and respect for the exercise of trade union rights in British Guiana.

Caribbean News
Monthly Newspaper
obtainable from
CENTRAL BOOKS LTD
2 Parton Street, W.C.I.

Under the Spreading Citrus Tree

MR. BUSTAMANTE! MR. GOMES!!
—was your journey really necessary?

By now these two West Indian comedians have returned from their junketing at our expense and with what have they returned?

What was all the rushing to and fro?

Superficially, this is what started it; a "NOTICE TO IMPORTERS, No. 648" issued by the British Board of Trade.

In short, this directive says that "arrangements have now been made under the provisions of Section 550 of the Mutual Security Act for the private import of a limited quantity of fresh oranges, fresh grapefruit and canned grapefruit from the U.S.A."

In other words the U.S. Government has given 'permission' to import from them. Thanks for the 'privilege'!

Thus the Churchill/Lyttelton Government have now been blackmailed by their Yankee usurers, for their debts, AND, we in the West Indies are to pay the price. Don't be amazed, it's all very simple!

Struggling from a permanent state of economic slump we have gone in for large scale citrus agriculture, especially Jamaica and British Honduras. We've even ventured into industrial canning. Naturally, as is the capitalist method, we depend on exports.

The U.S.A. is a possible market; what will the citrus farmers of California do? Right, they did it—customs tariffs went up and West Indian fruits were kept out of the U.S. market, by the artificially inflated high price. So they don't buy our fruit no more!

But remember, we have a "loving" Mother country that is always standing by to send battleships for our protection, even from our own elected members, as in Guiana—money is no object, they spend £12 per head per week for every soldier tramping our dusty streets.

By BILLY STRACHAN

contributing this article in place of Billy's Column

Poor belly crawling Busta and Bertie came cringing in subservience, buy, buy for God's sake or the communists will get us!

No, my friends, the Yankees HAVE got us!

Do you know who sold us?

Cornered

Well, I'll save you a lot of trouble; it's a lot too, for it took me several days and several phone-calls and visits to various libraries, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, but finally guess where—the UNITED STATES EMBASSY, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1.

On my 27th birthday, that was April 16th, 1948, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, signed a wretched agreement in Paris with the U.S. Government, officially known as the ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT. Article 2, paragraph 3, was the one that hit us, you and I colonials, the price for the debt to bolster up a collapsed capitalist economy in Britain:

> "the government of the United Kingdom will take the measures which it deems appropriate . . . to LIMIT ACCESS to markets, or further monopolistic control."

all this was agreed, to "facilitate U.S. stockpiling."

From this to the Mutual Security Act 1951 in the U.S. Congress, ammended by 1953 at the 83rd Congress, and this is the essence of Section 550.

Up to $250,000,000 is to be squeezed from already dollar starved countries in the way of credits, for the sale of **"surplus agricultural commodities or products thereof; produced in the U.S.A."**

And what's this for; for the provision of future happiness of the U.S.A. or any other backward countries? —paragraph C, sub-para. (1) states that the proceeds of such sales are for "providing military assistance."

For Guatemala? or Guiana against the British troops? or for the Kikuyu?

No! you can see now just where West Indians have to strike. The pathetic wailing of spineless politicians in whom the people have lost all trust, is of no avail.

Colonials must fight

I have to mention here a voice of support that appeared in the "TIMES", 7/5/54, formerly of the "Trinidad Legislature", who exposed the occasion when James Griffiths, the Labour-Imperialist, refused Trinidad the opportunity to sell sugar at extremely favourable prices to Venezuela.

For me, it is abundantly clear, that what we now pay in unemployment and misery, is directly due to our subject status to Britain and in turn their weak-kneed indebtedness to the Wall Street pawnbrokers.

MARSHALL AID IN ALL ITS NAKEDNESS IS THE ROOT OF ALL THE EVIL.

When I spoke to the Board of Trade official, enquiring about the Mutual Security Act, laughingly he told me not to worry about the name, it was only Marshall Aid in the 'new look'.

Here's a better bet for comic Busta and his podgy colleague Gomes; why not appeal to those parties in Jamaica and Trinidad, which strive to break the chains that strangle the sprouting orange groves at home.

The path of JAGAN is a worthy one, but not as tempting as the slippery slopes to wretched Whitehall!

Robeson Speaks Out

THE OTHER day Paul Robeson released for publication the following statement:

"Various newspaper columnists, radio commentators and magazines are now spreading the fantastic slander that Paul Robeson is 'changing his views'. Well, liars will continue to lie and this is a sad but a true fact that nowadays American manufacturers lead the world in the production and distribution of every variety of falsehood including, as we just have seen in Washington, 'doctored' photographs.

"But let me say for the record: the very essence of my life and work is loyalty to my convictions. I am, as I have been for many years, firmly and fully devoted to the struggle for peace and democracy throughout the world, for Negro liberation and colonial freedom, for friendship with the peoples of the Soviet Union, the new China and the People's Democracies of Europe. The interests of the working people of every land are my guiding principle and I know no force that can make me change.

"As for those who are telling the public that I have changed my mind, I might ask: how stupid can you get. Is the struggle for peace less meaningful today when Dulles threatens momentarily to throw a hydrogen bomb and bring retaliation in kind upon our own heads? Is it thinkable that Paul Robeson, the recipient of an International Stalin Peace Prize, would ever cease for a moment in his efforts in the sacred cause for peace?

"Am I, one of the three men awarded the title of 'Champion of African Freedom' in 1950, expected to ignore in 1954 the continuing massacre of my brothers in Kenya? And here in America is Jim Crow dead and buried? Has the Congress passed the anti-lynch law and F.E.P.C.? Have my people's demands for economic, political and social equality been granted? It not, why should Paul Robeson who has dedicated his life to the struggle for those goals, change his mind about them now.

"The fact is that every day brings new proof that the great cause of peace and liberation in which I am inseparably united with the vast majority of mankind, is invincible. The doom of imperialism has been sounded in all Asia and soon Africa and other colonial lands, now straining against their chains, will rise in mighty freedom.

"Change my mind? Gentlemen of the press, you had better change yours because what I believe in is happening."

Premier Adams Exposed

BARBADOS; 4/5/54: TODAY in the House of Assembly three back-benchers of the Labour Party, bossed by Grantley Adams, let the cat out of the bag!

Defending his position, the Hon. Errol Barrow, formerly an Executive Committee member of the Caribbean Labour Congress, LONDON BRANCH, stated that the Premier, Mr. Adams had approached him in London and asked him to come back to Barbados.

No one yet knows if Barrow has yet discovered Adams' cunning! This invitation must have taken place after Mr. Barrow had been Chairman of the C.L.C. (LONDON) Committee which caustically criticised Adams' support for the Rance Commission on Federation.

Although the Assembly debate descended to mudslinging, it did expose the shell-like structure of the so-called Barbados Labour Party.

Would you believe it? Barrow accused Adams of saying that Stalin was the greatest man who ever lived! But this was too much, the Premier, remembering his Churchillian C.M.G., hotly denied this, but added that he might go as far as saying that Lenin was the greatest statesman of his time.

This play acting is indicative of what the audience, the electorate demand. The best commentary and perhaps most telling, was Mr. Barrow's pregnant accusation:

"Next week, you will get up and say that you never said so."

Queen confers Birthday Honours

THIS ANCIENT practise took it's usual form and lists were announced on June 10th. The most ardent supporters of Her Imperial Majesty were duly recognised with Viscounts, Baronetcys, Knights Bachelor, Companionships of St. Michael and St. George and a host of lesser insignia.

Close on the heels of one of the West Indies' most illustrious Labour leaders, we have the following, noticeably from BARBADOS, all of whom have climbed to their present positions through the Barbados Workers' Union:

O.B.E.

H. W. Springer, Registrar of the University College of the West Indies.

F. L. Walcott, "for service to the Trade Union Movement in Barbados."

The Superintendent of Police in British Guiana, has also been bestowed with the M.B.E. (Member of the British Empire).

Slightly bewildering, is the **Colonial Police Medal** for Meritorious Service, awarded to Mr. R. K. Masson of the Fire Brigade at Belize in British Honduras?

Malayan, Jamaican, Kenyan, Trinidadian and Guianese police have been equally rewarded.

Her most loyal subjects have thus gained their just deserts!

Savage Laws

GOVERNOR SAVAGE has made an Order under the Emergency Orders empowering the Commissioner of Police to close down for twenty-four hours any printing press which publishes any matter:—

1. The advocacy or encouragement or approbation of disobedience to any authority lawfully constituted.
2. The advocacy or encouragement or approbation of disobedience or resistance to or disregard of any of the laws of the colony.
3. Any matter tending to promote feeling of hostility or ill-will towards members of Her Majesty's forces in the colony.

The police have power to close down the press for twenty-four hours and the Governor may order that the place remain closed for a further specified period. It is considered that this Control of Propaganda Order 1954, is aimed at the weekly publication "THUNDER", organ of the People's Progressive Party.

D. N. Pritt gets big welcome at C.L.C. General Meeting

A PACKED meeting hall of members and fraternal visitors listened to D. N. Pritt, Q.C. (the Great Defender) address the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) at 3, Robert Street, on Sunday, 27th June.

Mentioning that he upheld the interests of oppressed colonial peoples not merely as a kind-hearted individual, but as a socialist, Mr. Pritt advised the audience that they must never expect to get freedom on a platter from their oppressors.

The colonial people will have to struggle to win and hold their freedom.

With subtle humour directed at imperialism, Mr. Pritt received a big ovation at the end, and again when the chairman said that Mr. Pritt had spent one month in Guiana defending two P.P.P. members and had not asked or received a single cent for his services.

Among the fraternal delegates was a representative of the Executive Committee of the Electrical Trades Union, and he addressed the meeting.

Delegates came also from the Merseyside West Indian Society and from Birmingham.

GREETINGS

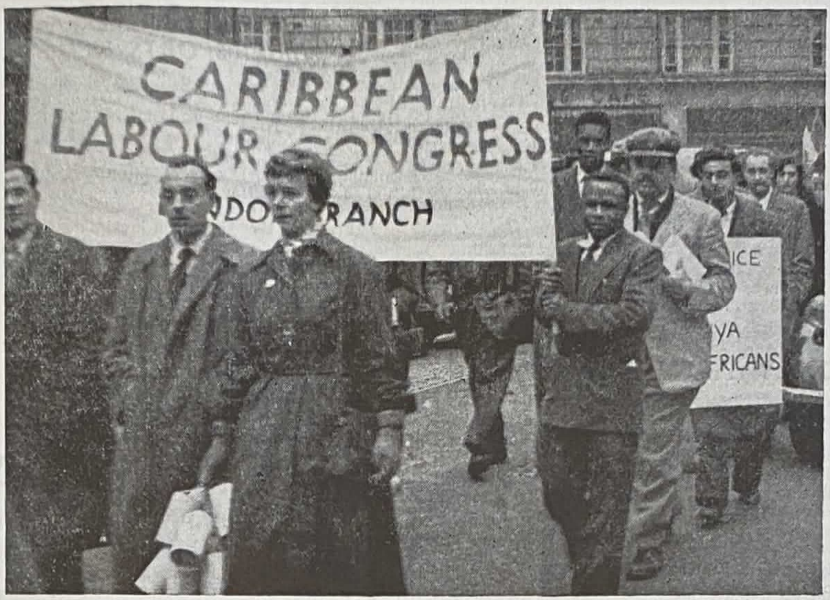
Messages of greeting were received from the P.P.P. of Guiana, West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad, Caribbean Labour Congress, Jamaica Women's Assembly, and also from the World Federation of Trade Unions and World Federation of Democratic Youth.

An emergency resolution on Guatemala was passed unanimously.

Following election of the Executive Committee, members saw a film show. One film expressed the African people's desire for a better life, with Paul Robeson singing. The other dealt with the miserable conditions of Negro and Puerto Rican migrant farm labourers in the United States.

May 25th. was National Day of protest on Kenya. Lobbying of M.P.s and demonstrations were organised.

Below, West Indians are seen taking part in a London demonstration.



YANKEES SUBDUE GUATEMALA

★ continued from page 1

sion of dictatorships. She was a feudal state in which 2% of the population owned 72% of the land. Sharecropping, forced labour on the roads for some three months of each year, wages of under 2/6d. a day with a cost of living as high as in Britain, this was the lot of the mass of the people, and hunger, disease and illiteracy as the inevitable outcome.

Free speech, a free press, free elections, trade unions, in short, all the elementary democratic rights were ignored. Any kind of opposition to the prevailing conditions was labelled bolshevism. It was bolshevism even to refer in publications to "workers". The more polite term "employee" had to be used. To protest meant at best imprisonment, at worst murder.

Democratic sweep

In 1944 a popular revolution took place in Guatemala. For the first time free elections were held. When the first President, Dr. Arevalo's term of office ended in 1950, President Arbenz was elected, receiving twice as many votes as his nine opponents combined.

In the past eleven years, Guatemalans have enjoyed basic democratic rights previously unknown to them. The deposed government's programme of ending feudalism by agrarian reform, stabilising the economy, raising the standard of living, providing social services and encouraging trade unions and collective bargaining received the overwhelming support of the people.

Quite fair

The measures were mild. For example, the Agrarian Reform law (1952) state that only **uncultivated** land over 223 acres was to be taken over. Compensation was to be paid, based on the registered value of the properties, and paid in bonds maturing in 25 years' time.

The amount of land to be distributed was only about a quarter of the total land. By February of this year 55,000 peasants had received land and already there had been evidence of a rising standard of living.

This alleged 'communist government' had only four Communist Congressmen out of 56.

What of the other charge, i.e., that Guatemala was a threat to her neighbours? Not even the U.S. State Department beset as it is by red-hallucinations could support such a charge. How could a country the size of Guatemala, as poor as Guatemala, bent on devoting her energies to raising the standard of life, be a threat to anyone? Can it be seriously maintained, that she was a threat to the Panama Canal, 700 miles away?

Profit grabbers

Guatemala was first threatened and abused, then attacked not because she was "communist" or potentially aggressive, but because her reform programme threatened the privileges of United States monopaly capitalism, and an improved life for her people might have served as an example to others in the hemisphere to cast off dictatorship and economic imperialism and tread the path of freedom to a civilised life.

The United Fruit Company of America owned the largest part of the best land in Guatemala, controlled the railways, ports, harbours and communications, and made enormous profits from the starvation wages.

No cheating

When the Government of Guatemala instituted its land reform it proposed to compensate the United Fruit Company at the value of its property as stated in its tax returns. The U.F. Co. demanded compensation at 14 times this amount, for land which it had received for nothing 50 years before.

The Arbenz Government did not expropriate the property of U.F. Co. and did not oppose foreign investment as such. It merely insisted that foreign investors must be subject to the laws as they applied to Guatemalans themselves.

Connections

American Big Business cares nothing for the laws of a democratic and sovereign government. The United Fruit Company was determined to fight Guatemala, and the tie-up between big business and government circles in the U.S.A. enabled it to do so successfully.

Mr. Dulles is a shareholder in the U.F. Co. and his brother is a member of the firm of Mellon and Co., which handles its legal affairs. Mr. J. M. Cabot, a cousin of Cabot Lodge, was until recently, the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs and also belongs to the legal firm representing the U.F. Co.

Mr. S. Braden, another director of U.F. Co. was also, until recently an Assistant Secretary of State. The President of Honduras from which the attack was launched, is the local legal representative of the United Fruit Co.

Enough has been said to show that the subjugation of Guatemala was on behalf of super-profits. As Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet, once said. "In Central America, bananas are defended, not liberties."

The Guatemalan people's struggle against this new dictatorship is the cause of all democrats. Above all, it is a cause which West Indians must support.

Take note

Guatemala gave her support ungrudgingly over the British Guiana issue. She was the first to raise the British Guiana question at U.N.O. to secure justice for Guiana.

Make no mistake about it. Guatemala's defeat is a victory for imperialism and a destruction of the hard won liberties of a downtrodden peasantry.

West Indians take note. This attack is an illustration of how the imperialists will stop at nothing to maintain their vile system. We must explain, protest and campaign on behalf of the Guatemalan people and expose aggressive American imperialism.

League of Coloured Peoples

THE LEAGUE of Coloured Peoples, Ltd., at its annual general meeting in May, adopted a report stressing the similarity of interests with the Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) and noting the absence of any conflict of aims between the two bodies.

A new Executive was elected, Mr. W. Compton, barrister, being the new President.

Recommendations made by a fact finding commission and adopted by the meeting would, it is hoped, result in improved functioning of the League to serve the interests of its members.

Peaceful Progress

THE EDITOR of the "Daily Argosy" (the Argosy Co., Ltd. holds the Government printing contract) has called for the deportation of Dr. and Mrs. Jagan and at least six other P.P.P. members. This is necessary he claimed in his June 6th editorial "if the country is ever to enjoy peaceful progress".

Make These Facilities Available

IT IS lamentable when one realises how handicapped West Indian athletes must be when they meet any opposition. Needless to mention the potentials of our athletic youths that are not fully utilized because of the lack of the necessary facilities such as proper cinder running tracks, gymnasia, and qualified coaches.

For example, to name a few, we have men like Wint, Bailey and Roden who have shown themselves as being among the best in the running field. Rodney, the weightlifter, who has competed in the last two Olympic Games, and Yolande Pompey, the light-heavyweight boxer from Trinidad.

But despite the lack of the necessary facilities we continue to produce an athlete of world stature from time to time, which shows the determination of young West Indians to take part in international sports.

ONLY THEN

We are fortunate that climatic conditions favour us somewhat. In England and Wales, with a population of 44 million, there are only 44 public cinder running tracks, quite in contrast to the whole of the West Indies where not a single cinder track exists. Finland with a population of four million has 700 public cinder running tracks, and the State of Minnesota in the United States alone has 800 of them.

Not until a People's Government is in power in the proposed federated state of the West Indies shall our youths be able to have the full benefits any young athletes could wish for like the young people of Poland, Hungary, Russia and China, to name a few of the People's Democracies where sport is accessible to everyone.

C. L. C. (L. B.)

3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.

★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.

★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.

★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW
AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

Elton Ollivierre's SPORTS COMMENTS

BRIEF SPORTS NEWS

Emil Zatopek, 31 year old Czech Olympic Champion, broke the world record for the 5,000 metres (3 miles 188 yards) with a time of 13 mins. 57.2 secs.

Iron man Zatopek holds nine world records, some finally recognised and a few yet to be ratified. They are for the 6, 10, and 15 miles; 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 25,000 and the 30,000 metres.

J. LANDY, the Australian, breaks the world record for the mile in Finland, with time of 3 mins. 58 secs.

DIANE LEATHER, first woman to run a mile under five minutes, breaks women's 880 yards record.

EZZARD CHARLES fails to regain the world heavyweight title from Rocky Marciano.

Russia is sending an athletic team to Britain in October.

GUIANA NEWS

From Janet Jagan, Georgetown, Br. Guiana.

Eleven persons, including two former Ministers of the deposed P.P.P. Government and three members of the prorogued House of Assembly have received a total of twenty-four charges for having "undesirable publications" in their possession. These charges followed recent police raids. The eleven persons are charged under the Undesirable Publications Ordinance, 1953. Under the Ordinance, the Governor has banned twenty-two publications. The law provides for a penalty of 250 dollars or six months' imprisonment or both. Hearing was fixed for June 18th.

At Buxton Village, East Coast Demerara, the people have been boycotting and picketing the local cinema. This followed the cinema owner's refusal to allow the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union the use of the building for a meeting.

Seven persons were arrested at Vreed-en-hoop on Empire Day, being charged with unlawful procession. Demonstrators carried flags and placards reading "Down with the Empire", "End Colonial Rule", "End Emergency Laws", and "We Want Dr. Jagan". The hearing has been postponed to June 14th.

On the 27th June four persons were arrested at Soesdyke (a village adjacent to the former U.S.A. Air Base) for illegal assembly and dragged from a sports club. Later police brought charges against eleven others. The hearing has been postponed to June 23rd.

Arrests Continue

Following a May Day demonstration at Plantation Skeldon, a sugar estate near the border of Dutch Guiana, seventeen persons were arrested by police and charged with holding an illegal procession. Thirteen were unrepresented by Counsel. Charges against fifteen were dismissed by the Magistrate. Nasrudeen, 23 year old member of the General Council of the People's Progressive Party, who was found not guilty of a sedition charge several months ago when he was represented by D. N. Pritt, and 21 year old Aslam, factory worker, were convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

News on the health of Dr. Jagan has been under considerable discussion, but no reports have been given by the prison authorities and on one is allowed to visit him. However, Mr. Luck, who was just released from prison has informed Dr. Jagan's family that his health has improved following an attack of 'flu. Dr. Jagan is now out of he prison infirmary.

The P.P.P., in its weekly newspaper "Thunder" which now has a circulation of 16,000 has called for an intensification of its boycotts and a reduction of the consumption of rum to reduce government revenue.

Published by C. LeMaitre, 22, Collingham Place, S.W.5.
X-Press Print, 397 Harrow Road, W.9.

TRINIDAD IN THE PAWN-SHOP

THE WHOLE island is now £4,245,000 deeper in debt after a Five-Minute deal that took place in London on Bad Lucky May 13th — that is, bad lucky for Trinidad.

Like Jamaica, just about a year ago, we are pawned by our foreign governors to their fellow countrymen financiers.

Through increased taxation, direct or indirect, we'll repay £4 interest, for the privilege of being in pawn for every £100 debt; then somewhere between 1973-76, we have to return the £100, when the original usurer or money-lender in Throgmorton Street, London, only gave £99 10s. 0d. in the first place.

Do you see, now, why John Bull hangs on to our dear islands, armed to the teeth?

Call to End Colour Bar

THE NATIONAL Council for Civil Liberties at its annual general meeting passed the following resolution on the colour bar and racial discrimination in Britain:

"This Annual General Meeting expresses its detestation at racial and colour bar practices still operated in this country;

Calls upon the Government to legislate to make racial and colour bar clauses in leases illegal;

Demands that the Government make a clear declaration that the taxpayer's money will not be used to entertain official guests at colour-bar hotels or hotels practising racial discrimination;

Urges the Government to call upon the publicly financed British Travel and Holiday Association to remove from their list of hotels all those which practise racial discrimination or colour bar, so that self-respecting members of the public will not inadvertently patronise such establishments;

Welcomes the action taken in Manchester and Paddington to bring before the Licensing Justices examples of colour bar in public houses, and calls upon the people throughout the country to put an end to all forms of colour and racial discrimination as uncivilised behaviour."

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CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

August-September 1954

JAMAICA WORKLESS TERRIFY GOVERNMENT

THE march of the unemployed scheduled to take place on Monday, July 19th under the leadership of the newly-formed Jamaica Unemployed Workers' Council was banned by the police one hour before it was due to start.

An official letter was received from the Acting-Commissioner of Police withdrawing permission. Police and soldiers were mobilised.

In spite of police intimidation the meeting which was planned to take place at the end of the march was carried through even though no publicity had been given to it. Over 1,000 persons stood uncovered in the sun from 12 noon until 6 p.m.

Four leaders of the Council were arrested—R. Simms (Chairman), G. Vassell (General Secretary), Winston Monroe (Executive Member), and R. Goode. The police

★ continued on page 5

FITTING TRIBUTE: "One the same evening I went to a dance near King's Cross. It was, I think, organised by the Caribbean Labour Congress — an organisation which does peerless work among the coloured boys who come from the West Indies seeking jobs in Britain."

(Phoebe Kwaku, in "Reynolds News".)

Guiana Justice

THE United Democratic Party has been keeping frequent public meetings. This Party, which the anti-P.P.P. forces are trying to build up, has been given many advantages denied the P.P.P. under the Emergency Orders. The P.P.P. was told by the Commissioner of Police that permission would not be given for any public political emetings.

Under an ordinance just passed by the Interim Legislative Council the collection of money from house to house or in any public place will only be permitted for charitable purposes. Charitable purpose means "any charitable, religious or philanthropic purpose". Excluded from the Bill are the trade unions and political bodies. This will go against the annual May Day Tag collection, the public collections by the P.P.P. and the collections for striking workers. This Bill came up two years' ago but was shelved due to protests from the Trade Unions and the P.P.P.

Another Bill making it unlawful to take photographs in courtrooms and in the compound of courts was passed recently. It is felt that this followed as a result of photographs taken of members of the P.P.P.

OUR STAND ON CYPRUS

AS THE British Governor of Cyprus imposed draconian restrictions on advocacy of Enosis, the Caribbean Labour Congress (London) sent a protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, saying:—

"West Indians protest with no uncertainty at the high-handed and unprincipled decrees against criticism of the Government in Cyprus.

"We demand the reinstatement of the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, and even limited freedom of speech.

"We further demand that the people of Cyprus like every colonial people should enjoy the inalienable right of self-determination."

A copy of the above protest was also sent to the Governor of Cyprus.

(See page 5 for article on Cyprus.)

The Amazing Christian Family of Dominica

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★ EDITORIAL ★

HAPPY PLAYGROUNDS

NOW you can relav. You are leaving the cold climate of North America, sailing down the Atlantic in a luxury liner, and you've got a little Fort Knox of money to draw on.

Wher are you going? — Why, of course, you are leisurely cruising to the "Playground of the Western World" — the Caribbean Riviera. In case you haven't yet caught on, that means the "Rock" (Jamaica) and the other West Indian territories.

When you arrive you will be staying at the most posh hotel in Montego Bay or North Shore. There you will mingle with people only of your own class, the very best — millionaires and the rest.

After a simply glorious fortnight, you depart, probably to another "playvround" in the Eastern World (Formosa?).

But before you go you will pick up a few knicknacks with your almighty dollars — little luxury items you will get cheaper in Jamaica than in New York or Boston.

And now wake up! For unless you're a rich Yankee tourist, this is only a dream. But it is a very real idea of what some gents have in mind as the role your land and mine should play in helping them to make big profits.

Writing in the World's Press News, Colin Turner, Directing Manager of Colin Turner (London), Ltd., gives some advice to British businessmen to sell their goods to American tourists in the West Indies, which he describes as fast becoming the playground of the Western World.

Where profits go

British businessmen would find in the American tourists a ready market for their luxury goods. Mr. Turner says that 140,000 Yankee tourists holidayed in Jamaica alone last year.

We know, however, that the profits would not go to West Indians, but to big business houses in London.

The same gentleman gives some hints on the technique of advertising to attract even the cents and shillings of the 'natives' who are "simple, childlike folk, poorly educated".

Isn't it amazing how often the imperialists describe us as "child-like", and inculcate the belief in their people that we are "child-like"?

This attitude might seem silly, but it has a purpose. For if you accept the idea that West Indians and people in colonies are "child-like", it is only a step further to accepting that we need protection.

We must be simple human beings who need "looking after", who don't feel pain and hardship so much and so can do without adequate food, clothing and shelter **and independence** until some future, always future, date.

We agree that there is 30 per cent. illiteracy in the West Indies, that hundreds of thousands of children do not get more than a year or two of schooling.

Away with them

But who are responsible? — None other than those big companies which profit from our sweat and toil, our cheap labour, our cheap natural resources — those capitalists in whose interests Whitehall maintains a military and political dictatorship over us. The same British and Yankee robbers who pose as our beneficient protectors. Now you see where the 'child-like' comes in!

These advertising experts would do well to plan an advertising campaign to get rid of British Imperialism in the West Indies.

Imagine seeing on big hoardings all over Jamaica, "Tate & Lyle, leave our sweet Isle!" and such similarly appropriate ads all over the West Indies.

But that won't happen, either.

Our 'advertising' campaigns will be like the Guianese people's struggle against imperialism, like the Jamaica unemployed workers' movement, and the steady awakening, militancy and struggle in Trinidad, St. Vincent, Barbados.

We shall win and scotch the schemes and plans of the British-American robbers.

Arthur Brown this month has . . .

A Chat with an Electrician

INTERVIEWING West Indian workers in England is an interesting job. The multitude of problems, all arising from the same source, that one hears about give some idea of the high degree of confusion that exists in the minds of West Indians and likewise in the minds of a large proportion of British workers.

Tom Lynch represents his branch at Union Youth Conferences

Consequently, when from all this the indication emerges that some West Indians (although unfortunately not enough) are utilising the many opportunities available for cementing a common friendship with the British worker, a feeling of pride can be reflected in the minds of all progressive people.

For this reason I quote at length my interview with young Tom Lynch, a West Indian from Trinidad.

"As a West Indian working in Britain I am overwhelmed at the interest the Trade Union movement extends towards young people.

"I work in the electrical industries and belong to the Electrical Trades Union. I find my Union in the forefront of the fight for better conditions for its young members all over the British Isles.

"I have had the good fortune to attend several of the Union's youth conferences as an elected delegate of my local branch. The discussions at these conferences are very lively and of a high standard of debate.

Youth's conditions

"In the discussions the delegates bring to the notice of the Executive Council the conditions and problems that face young people as a whole in the British Isles. The need for improving apprenticeship training facilities have been a serious point for discussion at many of these meetings. It is always expressed and agreed by unanimous decisions of the delegates that the apprentices in the trade must be given time off to study without loss of wages so as to relieve some of the great strain that is borne by young people who have to work during the day and attend evening classes two or three nights a week.

"The need to compel the Electrical Employers to observe the Education Act of 1944 which allows apprentices in all industries the right to attend day school without loss of wages for at least one day a week, is urgent.

"In the struggle for higher wages the young members support any demands or action the Union's Executive Council take against the Employers (who are solidly united in the Employers' Eederation) to grant increased wages to its adult and young members to offset the rising cost of living caused by the greed of the ruling class, led by the Tory Party, for maximum profits.

An appeal

"These Youth Conferences always discuss such things as General Education and urge their Executive Committee along with the rest of the Trade Union Movement in Britain to press the Government to build more schools which alone can erase the acute over-crowding in many elementary schools. The demand for sporting and cultural amenities are becoming more and more pronounced.

"The formation of Youth Clubs in the local borough is (in my view) a prerequisite to a better life and peace

"Last, but most important, is this. Our demands are flouted continuously by the Employers and their Government, thus the necessity to strengthen the Unions. In that respect I would like to appeal to my fellow colonials to join a Trade Union and take an active part in its work. In this way we can assist in laying the foundation for a full and happy life, not only for the British people, but equally for all colonial peoples."

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They Dig Their Own Graves

"But not only has the bourgeoisie forged the weapons that bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield these weapons — the modern working-class — the proletarians."

SO, SO long ago a German Scientist, looking older than his years, with his whitened hair and bushy beard, wrote these words in the British Museum.

Let us see who offers the best proof of this assertion. Over the past month or so we have these (unwitting perhaps!) eminent exponents;

1. Mr. N. M. Jensen.
2. Mr. J. K. Michie.
3. Sir Robert Barlow.

Maybe these names have not yet become household words in the West Indies, but if these men's plots fructify, it will not be long before they are as hated as any Bookers of Guiana — and you know how they have dug their own grave and served as the symbol against which every Guianese with gumption has united!

The three gentlemen above represent — from their managerial posts in Tunnel Portland Cement Company, Steel Brothers and Company, Limited, Metal Box Company, Limited — untold millions of pounds sterling invested in our lands, which from last year's toll, has brought in a profit of nearly Four Million Pounds or W.I. $20,000,000.

Tunnel Portland Cement is a near monopoly controlling cement production in Britain, Ireland, Egypt and the Sudan, the U.S.A., Burma, Cyprus, Kenya, Uganda and Jamaica.

Trading profit here is up to £1,523,050 for this year —some has gone to reserves and this Company has admitted spending over £4,000,000 over the last six years in what they call "expansion".

Steele Brothers and Company, Limited have only so far engulfed the Middle East, East Africa and Canada, but through a network of subsidiaries, control companies in India, Burma, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Japan, Siam, Ceylon and very naively, as the "Times" (1.7.54) puts it, quoting Mr. Michie on Guiana:

> "We operate here as managing agents of British Guiana Timbers, Ltd., in which concern, we along with Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Co., Ltd., are associated as shareholders with the Colonial Development Corporation . . ."

—Profits here were a mere £519.683 or just over two and a half million West Indian Dollars!

Metal Box Company Limited. Their group sales rushed past £43.000,000 to a new record. The figure is so high, if it were put into West Indian Dollars it would become so unreal, no native could really appreciate the figure in terms of understandable currency.

India, Malaya, South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand and Jamaica come in their group — and they're plotting for more.

After all bills and liabilities, dignified Sir Robert could declare £1,730,892 as NET PROFIT — and to think that I heard a rather disconsolate but attractive Jamaican girl say recently on a filthy day of continuous rain as she queued for a crowded 'bus, "Tcha man! Jamaica no gud, nuthin dere fe weh."

American Negroes Reject Haile Selassie

IMPERIALISM has struck another foul blow, well below the belt, at all the pride of the West Indian Negro.

Look at the pathetic figure of the 'Lion of Judah' Haile Selassie, stage attired in a British-styled Field Marshal uniform, wilting under the inquisitive TV arc lights in Washington. Listen to the shameful "NO!" he utters to a Negro delegation when asked to identify himself and Abyssinians as Negroes ! ! !

By Billy Strachan

This I know will give rise to real disappointment to scores of thousands of some of the most down-trodden but most promising folk, especially in JAMAICA, who are rearing to go to throw out our foreign occupation forces.

FLASHBACK: It was Geneva 1935, that Haile Selassie stood in tears, his people rapiered by Fascist Italy, and pleaded for support from Britain, France, the LEAGUE OF NATIONS. The Yankees had stood aloof from this world forum for Peace . . . only one voice rallied to the side of our stricken people, LITVINOV, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Litvinov admitted all the internal shortcomings of Ethiopian democracy, but warned the world, that he, no nation, above all the League could stand idly by and see blatantly violated

> "their inalienable right to integrity and independence."

Shades of Cyprus?

Hot Air

I don't know, I make no apologies for this heavy, even if historically true, contribution this month. How would you feel if you see your beloved countrymen criminally uninformed on account of a castrated Press.

Only this could have led to that meeting in the historic Ward Theatre, Kingston, Jamaica, urging an open invitation to this misleading figure-head of all coloured people! And the Manley talking-shop pumped further hot air to this unfortunate wild goose chase.

Arriving in Washington, May 26th, as a guest of President Eisenhower, to be lavishly entertained, could only have conjured up the most brutal memories. Did not the Press report that he had to be excused early and fled by a side door,

Shortly after his coronation, fat fascist Mussolini carried out the same technique in Rome, loading this perhaps then innocent, King with doubtful honours, even sponsoring Abyssinia's admission to the League of Nations 1934, against British opposition. THEN, the Judas' blow, a year later while the hoodlums stood by and laughed . . . .

Maybe the purist, say one of the career-lawyer-politicians, might try to score here and tell us that the impotent League did impose their economic sanctions; and so they did! But how far did the most powerful states, Britain and France implement even this limited action?

No, in the maniacal realm of power politics, any aggressor was to be appeased in the then late 'thirties in an attempt to maintain a futile united front against the first working-class Republic, Soviet Russia.

Shame

So Abyssinia bled unrestrained until the successful defeat of Fascism (1945) in which many coloured people shared. A little nation breathed again, like so many others wanted to . . . say, Korea? This time the war-mad Yanks moved (1950) and for the record, I from a coloured colonial race must quote with shame, Haile Selassie, the Lion of Judah, descendant of the King of Kings, on May 28th, 1954:

> "she (Ethiopia) was the only state in the Near East and in the Middle East to send troops to Korea." — against the Koreans.

All for 100 million dollars, not inappropriately blood stained. Maybe on these grounds the puppet politicians of the Carter clique in Guiana, so dispirited by the P.P.P. leadership under Jagan would also attempt any cheap stunt to rejuvenate their despised campaign in support of imperialism by inviting this King to the land of many rivers.

American Negroes, perhaps even more oppressed than West Indians (if that is possible?) spoke up with more pride when an overwhelming majority at a recent meeting in Harlem, New York, refused to approve an official invitation.

It has been a sad and bitter lesson, but we have learned so much so quickly, this added chapter that well illustrates the class structure with sharp definition, will yet be learnt, and You and I, the wiser.

Next month I will try to do better and probably bring a cheer instead — who knows, Premier Cheddi Jagan might even be free amidst his appreciative adoring Guianese!

Poland Celebrates

A LARGE and representative gathering attended the commemoration of the first ten years of People's Poland which was held at the Cambridge Theatre recently.

The celebrations took the form of music, Polish folk songs and dances and some well received renditions from the great Polish pianist Lydia Grychtolowina.

Addressing the gathering Mrs. D. N. Pritt spoke on the desire for friendship and understanding which the People of Poland want.

One of the visiting guests, a teacher, in a moving address spoke of the tortures she and many of her people had suffered at the hands of the Germans, and remarked: "Never again should Germany be re-armed to kill innocent people and children. Instead they should be taught to live in peace with all people."

Some beautiful songs were sung by Martin Lawrence and Ewan McColl and the audience gave their appreciation in their many minutes of applause.

Earlier in the proceedings a few Polish Fascists tried to upset the audience by telling the police that a time bomb had been placed in the theatre. The place was searched while the audience rightly remained in their seats. No bomb was discovered. Notwithstanding this incident, the audience settled down to an enjoyable programme.

BOOK WORLD

The System Works

"A PEOPLE REBORN" (published by Lawrence and Wishart, price 2/6d.), is the title of the record of a visit paid in December, 1953, to the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Northern Ossetia by eleven Britishers, among them the editor, Andrew Rothstein, noted authority on the Soviet Union.

They describe themselves as "active voluntary workers for British-Soviet friendship", and are officers of Soviet friendship societies in England, Wales and Scotland.

Ossetia is a little country on the northern slopes of the Caucasus, about 3,500 square miles (twice the size of Trinidad but smaller than Jamaica), with a population about the same as British Guiana, and the history of its people goes back to the first centuries A.D.

Since the sixteenth century they have been associated with Russia; first, as an ally, but after the 1780s as a satellite. Russia's hegemony brought with it an end to the slave trade, but inevitably perhaps suppression of national culture and in alliance with the native landlords, exploitation of the peasantry.

This era closed in 1917, and "A PEOPLE REBORN" is first of all an account of their achievement from the late 1920s when Ossetia underwent a process of decolonialisation, culminating in the grant of autonomy under the Stalin Constitution of 1936, to the present day; and secondly, the testimony of the visitors that the system WORKS.

★

As only two of the delegates spoke Russian and none apparently had previously visited Ossetia their witness is based largely on a comparison of the statistics before and after the event. But whatever the standard applied, the interpretation is one of steady improvement.

If, for example, one accepts the Rousseau criterion (and its validity for backward areas is hardly contested) that the government is best under which the citizens increase and multiply the most, one cannot help being convinced by the fact that the percentage increase in population for the twenty-six years, 1913-1939 (130,000/330,000) not merely equals but slightly exceeds that for the preceding eighty-four years of Tsarist rule (or was it tutelage), 1828 to 1913, when the population crept from 40,000 to 130,000.

Nor is this the main argument. The standard of living has risen tremendously. Peasants no longer sell their crops cheap to rich farmers, who having the means of transport take it to the market and sell for a song. Collective farming has enabled mechanization to be carried through and rotation of crops to become the accepted practice.

Women, who in pre-Soviet times could not sit down in the presence of men and contented themselves with their husband's 'left-overs', are now helping to build their new society, serving on the governing bodies of the Republic and enjoying the respect of their menfolk.

Just as impressive to the West Indian are the provisions for education. While the whole of the British West Indies, with a population ten times as large, makes do with only one University College, Ossetia boasts five institutes of University standard. Compared with Britain the rsult is startling. Whereas Ossetia has one university student to 80 of the population, the percentage for Britain is one to 500.

The account is equally impressive of all aspects of Ossetian life, both by comparison with its past condition and by comparison with that of other countries still under the "stewardship" of metropolitan countries:

From 1923 to 1948, 2,000 books were published in 10 million copies in Ossetia, while in the last year British Colonial Government in the West Indies have tried to ban as many. Nevertheless, these travellers' tales, buttressed with facts and interspersed with lively comments, show that in this spot of the world the social revolution has brought to a forgotten people a new and abundant life.

by "Critic"

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Poisoning Evil

IT IS most heartening to see this poisoning evil, the colour bar, which has been the destruction of many decent Colonials living in Britain, and other parts of the world, so rightly brought to light, in a pamphlet by Henry Gunter, "A MAN'S A MAN" (published by Birmingham Communist Party, 6d.). The author is a West Indian living in Birmingham, where he is Secretary of the Afro-West Indian Society and also a member of the Birmingham Trades Council.

His description of the 9,000 Coloured people living in Birmingham who have come either to gain a living, or pursue their studies, and are faced with the situation of the refusal of accommodation in houses, hotels, and social activities, because of colour prejudice, is something of the most vile and unchristian principles which, I am sure, all decent-minded Britons will denounce.

The author's dealing with the city transport department (p.16), when the colour question had shown itself, and was attacked by the national newspapers, can be summed up as very good in theory, and in practice.

To do a job properly, one should be non-sentimental, and with an open mind to criticise. But even the most diehard, after reading "A Man's a Man", if he has a conscience and believes in Christianity and the brotherhood of man, will find himself agreeing with the pamphlet, and may even come out to denounce the colour bar.

Ralph Bennett

Why Have You Come to Britain?

SOONER or later every West Indian here is asked a certain question. It is put in polite form sometimes but always it seems to irritate . . . It should do more than irritate though, it should stimulate us to think. Why did you come here? That is the question.

Of the thousands who arrive every few months no more than a few dozen are bona-fide full time students. West Indians come to England looking for work. After years of British rule we cannot, in our native lands, earn enough money to meet the most elementary needs of life.

Randolph RAWLINS
gives some answers to this question and shows the way forward.

It is nothing new for West Indians to migrate. Poverty and the need have sent Jamaicans to Panama, Cuba, Haiti and the U.S.A.

Mass emigration to Britain began with recruitment of R.A.F. personnel. Many returned, and as the post war distress struck an impoverished people, the great trek started. The Steamship lines reaped a harvest and increased fares merrily.

In England, the West Indian faces not only the cold treatment meted out to foreigners, but also prejudice. because of his colour. He is, so to speak, that twin evil—a coloured foreigner. Prejudice affects him in employment, in housing, and finally restricts his social life.

CLASSIFIED ADS

It is the former white-collar worker who is most affected by job discrimination. Other than certain departments in the Civil Service, there are no avenues open to him, and the Civil Service is never a migrant's job since most of its benefits presuppose living out one's life in England. As a rule no store, firm, office or library will hire him. He knows better than to make use of the classified advertisements.

For the unskilled worker the situation is equally grim. A job for him means in effect either J. Lyons, a hospital or the British Railways.

No statistical survey can evaluate the psychological assaults on coloured people, the hostility of minor clerks at some of the Employment Exchanges. The openly insulting attitude of some of the National Assistance Board interviewers, the bland lies heard at a personnel office when the Board outside loudly proclaims vacancies.

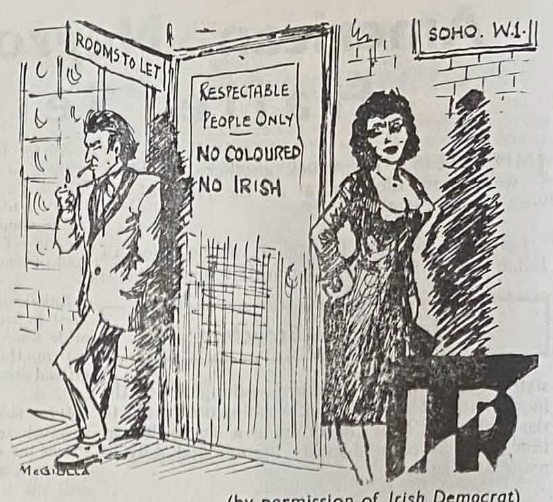
In housing we face a refreshingly simple picture. In time the coloured foreigner learns that there are certain areas where he is absolutely barred from accommodation. The borough of Westminster for example, where through a Clause in the Ground Laws, discrimination has acquired legal status.

Within the little coloured settlements proper landlords charge a colour tax ranging between ten shillings and one pound, and it is common-place on obtaining a room to find that your predecessor, of white, had paid a few bob less.

EDUCATION

What can we do about all this? We will have to learn to rouse working-class militancy, to stimulate unity and lastly, to put our case before the British working-class. It is by doing these things that we can contribute to change conditions in the West Indies so as to make job hunting treks unnecessary. And that is the nature of the education that our "Mothercountry" can bestow.

In a talk to the Caribbean Labour Congress, Julius Jacobs of the formes London Trades Council gave us an indication of the way we should set about gaining these aims.



(by permission of *Irish Democrat*)

West Indians are good furniture workers and they join the Union, he says, are welcome and have in cases become Union officers. But not enough. Many more have to come forward in every calling. We must not only pay Union dues but attend meetings and run for Offices. Especially where Union leadership is progressive our advances will be welcome. So, full participation in Union activities must be one of our aims.

Further, there is need to lay our case directly to the Union, the British working class. In general, we have to outline the reason for our presence here, that is to say, the economic conditions in the B.W.I., and point out the fact that we face a common enemy—the British capitalists.

Antagonism between the British worker and the Colonial worker is fostered by the Capitalist Press.

As an individual in a job, as a speaker to a Union branch, as a critic of the one-sided sensational Sunday journalism, any West Indian can fulfil at least one of these roles. Working as a team within one of the lodging houses. Colonials have been able to gain a rent reduction. Remember that the landlord always fears two things. The Rent Tribunal and unified action.

END IT

Finally, we need formal organisation. The British Council will sponsor tours to Stratford-on-Avon for Shakespearean scholars, it will not intervene in order to obtain the rights for a victimised Railwaymen.

It is here that the importance of the Caribbean Labour Congress becomes apparent. Join now. Read the "Caribbean News", pass it on. Send news of events at home. of efforts to achieve our aims here.

This is the only way in which we can help to make our country livable in, and stop once and for all these endless voyagings here and there over the world looking for work.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

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....

The High Cost of Housing

From Our Merseyside Reporter

A GREAT deal of activity is taking place on Merseyside among the colonial residents. For a considerable length of time they have been forming various organisations to take an active part in the struggle of the Colonial Peoples.

One of the most progressive groups, The Mersey West Indian Society, now intends to approach the local council with a view to Corporation houses for the colonials. In the Society's opinion the number of houses allocated is inadequate when compared with the number that is necessary to bridge the gap on the high cost of rooms, which absorbs a large portion of their income, thus lowering their standard of living.

Constantine

It was announced quite recently that it is the intention of the Stanley House Community Centre to invite Mr. L. Constantine, the famous West Indian Cricketer, to speak to an audience before be embarks for his native land.

Mr. Wynter, the warden of Stanley House, says that he feels quite confident that Mr. Constantine will accept the invitation.

Three articles from Mr. Constantine's book "Colour, Bar" have recently been published in a daily newspaper

BY THE WAY

THE British Government of Barbados has approved the expenditure of $34,000 for the building of a police training station in Barbados.

This unit is to provide for the 'red-seamed' flatfoots in the Leeward and Windward.

Let us note this, in conjunction with what Sir Charles Jeffries states in his recent book 'The Colonial Police".

Referring to the official Commonwealth Review hand-out dated July 9th, 1954, we quote:—

" . . . that while the Colonial police forces are now officially constituted as civilian bodies, they have certain military characteristics differentiating them from the U.K. forces, and that they differ also in that the police of each territory are an organ, of the central government and are not, as in the United Kingdom, split up into separate units under local authorities."

The Truth About Cyprus

By George Pefkos
Editor of *Vema*

THE British Govrnment, without consulting our people, declared that Cyprus will be the centre of the Middle East Command and a Constitution much worse than the two previous ones will be enforced upon our island. This Constitution provides a majority of officials nominated by the Governor. As it was expected, the whole Greek people of Cyprus who in 1950, in a plebiscite arranged by the Archbishop voted 96 per cent. for Union with Greece, rejected at once this Constitution and are refusing this and any other, even self-Government.

The British Government forced a monstrous law suppressing every vestige of civil liberties in Cyprus.

Newspapers which publish anything for Union with Greece will be suppressed for three years and their Editors imprisoned for five years. All political parties which support Union with Greece will be outlawed and their leaders will be sent to five years' imprisonment and their ordinary members for two years.

The traditional slogan of the Cypriot people "ENOSIS", that is Union with Greece, is outlawed and anyone who dares to say it will be sent to prison even if he says the slogan in his own house. British newspapers publishing anything sympathetic to the Union of Cyprus with Greece are prohibited to circulate in the island.

But whatever suppressing measures the British Government can take, there is no power in the world which can destroy the burning national desire of our people for national independence because the Greekness of Cyprus goes back five thousand years ago.

Many conquerors tried to destroy the national character of our people but none had succeeded, and it can be taken for granted that the British imperialists also will never succeed in this shameful effort.

CONSTITUTION TRICKS

Cyprus has been under British occupation since 1878. Four years' later, a pseudo-Constitution was granted whereby nine Greek members were elected, six officials nominated by the Government under the chairmanship of the Governor who had all the time the "Veto" and the executive power in his hands.

After a tremendous campaign for "ENOSIS" in 1927 the Constitution was altered slightly, but with effective control still very much on the side of the Governor.

In 1931 the British Government forced through a Taxation Bill against the majority vote of the Assembly. This produced such a reaction by the people that White hall swept away the Constitution, and since then Cyprus has been ruled by the Governor as the sole Dictator.

Cypriots demonstrating for Enosis—
union with Greece

In 1945 the whole Trade Union leadership of our country was put in jail for propagating the class struggle. In March of the same year, peaceful peasants were shot dead and many wounded for demonstrating for Union with Greece.

In 1948, the elected Mayor of Limmassol and his Council were sentenced to jail for renaming one of their streets. In the same year, when the National struggle of our people was sharpened the British Government offered a new Constitution to the people of Cyprus whereby the majority of the Consultative Assembly would be elected by the people, but again the executive power was left in the hands of the British Government.

Let me give you a picture of the economic conditions of our island.

BENEFITS

In order to have the "great honour" of belonging to the British Empire, the Cypriots, for many years, paid a tax of £92,000 per annum into the British Treasury. The total sum paid in this way comes to about £4,500,000.

If it is reckoned that about £2,000,000 returned to Cyprus as "aid", what is left with a low interest is about £20,000,000. What could Cyprus not have done had it had this money in its own hands!

According to the official report of 1953, Cyprus has paid a total sum of £6,802,000 to the "Joint Colonial Fund". This sum, which is in cash, is not in the hands of the British government of Cyprus but in the hands of the metropolitan government which uses it as it desires. Also a sum of £7,418,133 of Cypriot money is invested on loans to other colonies and dominions. This money is loaned for 2 to 2½ per cent., but when Cyprus needs a loan the British financiers ask for 5 per cent. interest and 2 per cent. charges.

Again, according to the same report of 1953, Cyprus had a surplus of £3,219,425 in the "Colonial Development Fund". This "Colonial Development Fund" was founded in April 1946 and every year since a sum has been transferred from the Cyprus budget to this fund. If the three sums given above are added together they total £17,439,558 of Cypriot money. But this money is not in Cyprus.

Cyprus is being speedily transformed into the biggest military base in the Middle East. The British H.Q. of the Middle East is being transferred to Cyprus. Great stretches of land have been already confiscated for military works. And it is said that when these works are completed more than 80,000 British troops with their families will be transferred to Cyprus.

MISERY

What will be the economic consequences of this for Cyprus? The cost of living has already risen to 131.2 per cent. even during the summer months when normally a slight fall is noted. The working people are unable to live. They cannot buy basic foodstuffs because of high prices.

Rents eat up 30 to 40 per cent. of wages and salaries and thousands of families live in huts, stables and caves in the most wretched conditions. With the coming of tens of thousands of soldiers and their families, the cost of living will rise to amazing heights.

And if today, thousands of working-class families are wretched and suffer deprivations, with the new rise in the cost of living and the inflation which will be created, they will suffer even more terribly. These are but a few of the "economic benefits" which Cyprus derives from being part of the British Empire.

Civil Rights at Stake

THE steady growth of the progressive political and Labour movements in Jamaica has resulted in an intensification of the government's smear campaign aimed at destroying what little is left of the People's civil rights.

Publications that are obtainable throughout Britain are banned and severe penalties are imposed on the offenders. Recently eight persons in Kingston have been prosecuted under the Undesirable Publications Act, including Rolly Simms, former Vice-President of the C.L.C. (London Branch).

The government has also announced as its official policy that it will not deal with the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union and other unions affiliated with the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions. They have advised the Sugar Manufacturers' Association and other private employers to do likewise.

Only Alternative

This policy has meant that these unions being barred from the ballot in polls are forced to resort to strike action to prove to the employers that they represent the workers and force them to bargain. The eight weeks' old strike at Appleton and Raheen Estates in St. Elizabeth and at the four cane farms in Western Hanover were the immediate results of this policy.

In St. Elizabeth, main scene of the strike, 28 members of the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union were prosecuted while pursuing normal trade union procedure. A fine of £1 each for illegal picketing was levelled against 19 members of the S.A.W.U. For disorderly conduct five were fined £4 each and for breach of public order another member was fined £7. 7. 0. Three workers who joined the Union were evicted from estate houses.

Join the Fun

A reader has suggested that it would be a good idea to get slogans, ditties and rhymes to popularise "Caribbean News". He has submitted this one:

Whether the weather be foul
Or whether the weather be fine,
"Caribbean News" will show you
How to make your life sublime.

We therefore invite readers to send us theirs, but please make them short, preferably two or three lines.

JAMAICA WORKLESS

from page I

refused bail until the public meeting was ended for fear that they would attend.

The panic shown by the ruling class was due to the wave of support that the Unemployed Council has been receiving. Permission to march was first granted because they thought the march would be a flop. When its true strength was glimpsed they hastily revoked permission. At a protest meeting held at Coronation market the following day over 5,000 gathered to support the Council despite a statement from Bustamante that he would be banning the Council's meetings.

New forms of protest are being planned to carry on the fight for the just demands of the unemployed for "Work or Unemployment Pay". The unemployed are demanding that the Government either provide work for them or pay unemployment compensation of 35/- a week.

'New Imperialism'

60,000 yards of cloth were shipped from Jamaica to the Calico Printers' Association in Britain. This is the first of a series that will be made. 500,000 yards of rough cloth has been ordered from the local mill. In England the Calico Printers' Association will finish off this cloth and sell it with the 'prestige' of 'genuine Lancashire cloth'. This is 'new type imperialism' where the cheap colonial labour makes half the article and it is finished off in the metropolitan country.

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Our Boys Showed Their Qualities in Empire Games

writes Tom Lynch

THE British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Vancouver lasted nine days and ended August 7th. Once again the West Indies, represented by athletes from Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados and British Guiana, has shown the sports world its mighty athletic ability. On the final drawing, had these territories been taken as a whole and not separately, the West Indies would have been placed fifth in the table with 98 points

The Games had the biggest entry so far, as there were 800 entries from 25 different countries.

In the track events our athletes showed superb stamina. Because of the lack of team-work, as there were at times too few participants for some events as compared with other countries, they gained for their individual islands victories that were glorious achievements.

TRACK

In the 100 yards L. LIANG (Jamaica), R. AGOSTINI (Trinidad), A. More (Jamaica), A. Bates (Trinidad), all took part in the heats, with R. Agostini reaching the finals and going on to win the 100 yards in Games' record timing.

R. Horsham and F. Hall (Jamaica) joined the four above-mentioned competitors in the 220 yards and again R. Agostini was the only one to reach the semi-final, but he did not qualify for the final. In the 440 yards J. Rogerts (B.G.), gained fifth place in the final with a time of 48.5 secs. The race was won by K. Gosper (Australia) in 47.2 secs.

Jamaica romped home in the 220 yards hurdles with K. Gardner to gain its first Gold Medal and so show the way to the rest of the islands' teams which had not gained any victories as yet.

On went Jamaica, but not so successfully, for in the 4 x 110 yards relay she was only able to gain 6th place, and again in the 4 x 440 yards relay was 6th with a time of 3 mins. 19 secs. The race was won by England in 3 min. 11.2 secs.

WEIGHTS

Trinidad kept the scale balanced in the weight lifting as R. Wilkes won the 145 division with a total of 690 lbs., a Games' record. His nearest rival, J. Sylvian (Canada) totalled 655 lbs.

In the Middle-Heavyweight division L. Kilgour was second with a total of 865 lbs. He was beaten by K. Daly of Canada.

Lifts were K. DALY—Press 275, Snatch 275, Jerk 330; L. KILGOUR—Press 275, Snatch 260, Jerk 330.

In the Lightweight division G. Nicholls (Barbados) was second with a total of 760 lbs., beaten by V. Berberis (Australia), total 765 lbs.

In the swimming events B. Roper (Jamaica) was a keen opponent. He swam his way to the final in the 110 yards free-style, timing 60.2 secs. Roper swam in three heats in the 220 yards breast stroke, but failed to qualify for final.

Trinidad finished with two Gold and two Silver, Jamaica one Gold, British Guiana one Bronze and Barbados one Silver medal.

Caribbean News Sportsman

of the month

In Britain R. Thompson, a young Trinidadian, running in the Orwell Works' annual sports, in Britain, captured five awards. His main victories being in the 100 and 440 yards. Keep up the good works!

WEDDING BELLS

The marriage took place on Saturday, 12th June, of Miss Doris Gibbs of St. James', Jamaica, to Mr. Osborne Williams of Trelawney, Jamaica.

The ceremony was performed at Islington Town Hall. A reception was then held at their home, 32, Hamilton Park, N.5, and was well attended by many friends and well-wishers of this lovely couple.

The proceedings were enlivened by the able and well-known J. C. McNish of Trinidad, who acted as master of ceremonies.

POLAND—WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Meeting, Film Show and Social
Wednesday, 15th. September
7-30 p.m.—refreshments from 6-30
CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square
Speakers: **Gordon Schaffer and delegates just returned**
Chairman: **Bill Ellerby**
Film: "WARSAW LIVES AGAIN"
Tickets 6d. from British-Polish Friendship Society, 81 Portland Place, W.I. (LAN 6573)

First Dance of the Season
Saturday, 11th. September
ROYAL HOTEL
Woburn Place. Russell Square Tube
GINGER JOHNSON
T.V. and Recording Star, and his Afro-Cuban & Latin American Band
playing 7-30 till midnight—no break
Ladies 3/- **Bar**
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Is Business Good?

MORE profits up: Mr. P. A. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.C., A.C.G.I., Chairman of Premier Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., very modestly states that with a rise in nett profits by £8,907 (over forty thousand dollars) up to £64,666, results can be regarded as "satisfactory".

For whom?

The Chairman complains of a tax provision of £30,000 but before that, he tucks away £49,728 for what the accountants call 'depreciation and amortization'.

Well, the accountants are only one step removed from the lawyers, so heaven help us!

In this intentionally complex bit of business manoeuvering, we have the National Mining Corporation Limited and the Trinidad Leaseholds Limited, associated either as agents, vendors or leasees.

We on this side could well emulate some of the unity in action by the employers, 'eh Fyzabad or Mayaro? Maybe the oilfield workers will divide next year's profits amongst themselves!

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Who Supports Racial Discrimination?

Hear
Colin Jones (Vice-Pres., League of Coloured Peoples)
Desmond Greaves, (Editor, Irish Democrat)
give the ANSWER

Friday, 3rd. September, 7-30 p.m.
Co-op Hall, 200 Cambridge Rd, Kilburn, N.W.6

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

George Pefkos, (Editor of Vema)
Julian Compton, (Pres., League of Coloured Peoples)
will speak on

COLOUR BAR & COLONIALISM

Thursday, 16th. September, 7-30 p.m.
3, Robert Street, N.W.1

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

and, to cap it all

Saturday
OCTOBER
9
Anniversary of withdrawal of B.G. Constitution

Two Big Sessions

Why the Colour Bar?

Can we destroy Racial Discrimination?

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John Burns, (President, Fire Brigades Union)' a Member of Parliament, leading West Indian, Irish and Cypriot speakers
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CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

OCTOBER 1954

TOO MUCH SUGAR IN WEST INDIES?

DRASTIC cuts in sugar exports, and therefore production have been ordered by the bullying INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL, during last September.

Sugar producers who conform to the International Sugar Council, were told that export quotas should be reduced by nearly one million tons, from an estimate of 3,860,000 last May to a now agreed figure of 2,950,000.

Continued on page 5

King Sugar thrives on cheap labour from the pool of unemployed producing slums like this

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Jamaica Governor Condemns Prejudice

THE British West Indian "has every right in this country as the native-born Briton". So said Sir Hugh Foot, Governor of Jamaica, as he addressed a packed meeting of the West Indian Students Union at Hans Crescent, London, on Friday, 10th September, 1954.

Sir Hugh delivered the principal address at the Union's Annual General Meeting. The main part of his address dealt with West Indian Federation.

On this he described himself as a very strong federalist, considering economic independence before political independence as the solution to West Indian problems.

Answering a question, he said that his government had no project that would end the flow of Jamaican or West Indian manpower to this country.

It is the duty of the British government to integrate West Indians in the social and economic life of the country. When the flow of Jamaicans to Britain began increasing rapidly, the British government had asked his government to control it. His government indicated that this could be done only by selected or restricted immigration. Such a step his government would not introduce, and it was up to the British government to take measures controlling immigration.

This, he said, the British government declined.

He condemned acts of violence on West Indians. And he blamed "lurid articles" in certain sections of the British press for creating anti-West Indian feelings.

Continuing, Sir Hugh said: "I was told of the high standard of efficiency and good behaviour of West Indian workers by a high Ministerial official. And wherever I went, visiting Jamaicans, I was deeply moved by the sincere kindness they showed to each other.

"We cannot believe that there are not bad ones among you. There are bad ones among all people, and it is deplorable for all West Indians to be judged by a few bad ones."

In conclusion he suggested the use of radio, television and press to explain why West Indians come to Britain.

Scourge of Trinidad

Port-of-Spain: 14/9/54. Health Authorities in Trinidad deny that the reported cases of yellow fever are indications of an epidemic.

Neighbouring South American governments, including Venezuela on the main Jamaica/Trinidad air route, imposed a ban on all through traffic.

Ministerial authorities must remain indicted for the lack of attention generally paid to the HEALTH OF THE NATION*. Poliomyelitis, yellow fever, yaws etc., are all *preventable* diseases and only thrive in those areas where there is a negligent Health Service.

* By Dr. S. Leff, M.D., DPH., Barrister at Law published by Victor Gollancz, Ltd., Price 12/6.

OIL THIEVES

Georgetown: 9/9/54. When Britain succumbed to USA pressure over the Guiana situation, little did they realize that when the first announcement of oil exploration license was to be registered, it would be in the name of McBride Oil and Gas Corporation of British Guiana Ltd.

This obviously is a subsidiary of the Texan oil moguls of international notoriety, who operate under the same name with the exception of the words British Guiana in America's "deep south".

There isn't even honour amongst thieves!

★ EDITORIAL ★

LABOUR IMPERIALISM

LABOUR'S policy to the colonies is democratic self-government, proclaims the official Labour Party Statement on Colonial Affairs, issued for the Party's 1954 Annual Conference.

It openly supports armed repression against the people of Kenya and Malaya, and is otherwise just a collection of platitudes.

Indeed, editorial comment of the *Observer* was, " It is hard to see how anyone except a South African Nationalist could object to it ".

It attributes the poverty and backwardness of colonial people to " primarily natural causes ". Are we then to assume that a beautiful climate, abundant mineral resources, agricultural lands and labour power are the causes of our poverty? How stupid can these Right-wing labour imperialists be to expect us to fall for this rot!

They do not recognise that it is the very colonial political and economic strait-jacket that keeps us in poverty and backwardness.

Independence will have to wait, we are told, till " the development of each territory maks it practicable ". Just what these conditions are that would make this " practicable " are studiously omitted from the document.

The Labour leaders aim to ensure us " a fair standard of living and freedom from oppression from any quarter ". They do not mention however, that what we colonials need is freedom from British imperialism which is oppressing us.

Lord, save us from our " friends "!

For you see, our Labour protectors' line of reasoning is that our backwardness is due to natural causes, that they are helping us to improve our living standards by giving us back a couple of shillings for every pound they rob us (by means of Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, etc.), and while this slow, painful (for you and me) process is taking place we are to be protected by British Labour imperialism from . . . " oppression ", that is, from ourselves kicking out the big foreign monopolies like Bookers, Tate & Lyle, and others.

Hypocrisy

The Statement is full of cant and fulsome promises of what must be done to raise colonial people's standards.

We offer a very short solution—" Get off our backs!"

How did our people in the West Indies benefit by six years of Labour rule?—Unemployment mounted, cost of living rose. Were the agriculturists given land? Did exploitation by Bookers, Trinidad Leaseholds, and the rest, decrease?—Their profits grew!

That is why it makes one sick with scorn to read the glib hypocrisy poured out by those who differ no jot from the Tories.

No, gentlemen Labour imperialists, we are not taken in with this colonial diversion. Your colonial policy cannot inspire any colonial. And we feel sure the Labour Party members will see through this collection of ill-concealed principles of Labour Imperialism.

The Party rank and file showed their feelings even against their own right-wing leadership when Lyttelton overthrew the Guiana Government. It is with these democrats that we shall together build in common struggle a new policy for freedom and a better life for all.

But we shall fight Labour imperialism as we fight Tory imperialism.

NOTHING can substitute for our national independence!

★

NOT THE ANSWER

SIR Hugh Foot, governor of Jamaica, is right in condemning anti-West Indian feelings. He is also right in saying that West Indians cannot be stopped from coming to Britain.

But if that is his answer to the serious unemployment situation in the West Indies, then we disagree with him.

West Indians are not for export.

Our unemployment problem can be solved. A country so rich in agricultural and mineral wealth can solve its economic problems.

This we can do by industrialisation. We must turn from extractive industries to manufacturing. Above all, we must have political independence. For then we shall be able to direct the use of bauxite, sugar, gold, oil and pitch to eradicate unemployment, ignorance and disease from our country.

Of course, Sir Hugh, would not say that. Only a fool would " kill the hen that lays the golden egg "—for imperialism.

Suppressed Report Confirms Huge Unemployed Figure

QUOTING what it describes as the best authorities, Jamaica newspaper Public Opinion estimates that over 260,000 of a labour force of 1,035,000 are unemployed in the island. This means that one in every four Jamaicans cannot get a job.

A survey was conducted in 1946 by the Central Bureau of Statistics, covering Greater Kingston and the ten largest urban areas. The Bureau report, Public Opinion alleges, was suppressed on the orders of Busta and quotes Mr. G. Cumper, of the Research Institute of the University College of the West Indies, as stating that the 1946 " figures may conceal an increase " over those of 1943.

Rising

It is on these " suppressed " 1946 figures that Public Opinion's Industrial Reporter, in his turn, arrives at the figure of 264,857 unemployed in 1954. Increasing population, decreasing employment in sugar and bauxite are among the factors that have stabilised the percentage around 25 per cent. workless.

The Research Council of the U.C.W.I. is preparing a 1954 report which will be ready next year.

Back Trinidad Freedom Move

WHEN it became clear that Government intended to debate constitutional reform for Trinidad and Tobago the West Indian Independence Party decided to throw its weight behind the most progressive resolution.

The resolution standing in the name of Hon. M. G. Sinanan demanded " An immediate grant of full responsible government ".

This would deprive the Governor of his veto and reserve powers, throw out the nominated puppets and make the Executive Council subject to the majority will of the legislature.

Delegation

A 15-man delegation drawn from Arima, California, Arouca, Curepe, Tunapuna and Port-of-Spain by the party interviewed M. G. Sinanan the Wednesday morning prior to the debate on 30/4/54. The delegation informed Mr. Sinanan that although the WIIP's goal was complete independence for Trinidad and Tobago, the people and the Party were prepared to back him on his resolution for the immediate grant of responsible Government.

The delegation led by Lennox Pierre, the Party's Chairman, called on Mr. Sinanan to make their stand known to the elected members of the opposition when they met that afternoon.

[From FREEDOM]

HELP THE FUND

Dear Readers,

I am appealing to you to help me in our fight to keep your paper going.

The contribution for August / September was £1 12s. 6d. Let us try and make the October contribution something to be proud of.

Thank you.

Please send contributions to:—
R. Bennett, Caribbean News Fund,
3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

ST. KITTS PSALM

To this end the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) pledges its full support.

The Government is my Shepherd, I work yet I
want

It enjoineth thrift upon me by taxation and casteth
my labour into the sea,

It poureth shekels into Bayfords, but who drinketh
the milk thereof?

It bindeth the lightning with small cables so that
the voltage thereof serveth not,

It sprayeth my house with oil, yet the drains are
broken and unclean,

Its favourite voyage in glory to the ends of the
earth, yet the taxpayer goeth to Anguilla at
his peril,

If the jail-breaker be not captured how shall the
unknown offender be apprehended?

Though I walk not through the Valley of the
shadows I disturb the illicit distiller,

Surely there is no other Government like unto this,
that wasteth my substance and sayeth, Aha!
Aha!

For it is perfect in its own sight and careth not for
the suffering of the people.

(Reprinted from THE DEMOCRAT, St. Kitts)

Serious Situation

Arthur Brown concludes his series on West Indians in British Industry

THE key to success of colonial workers in Britain is how quickly they can build up and consolidate the friendship and understanding of the English working class. In this series I have tried to reveal some of the basic problems; alternatively I have pointed out how some colonials are succeeding in overcoming them.

To round off I think it is important to point out to both English and colonials that apart from their own misconceptions of each other, founded on imperialist ideology, they are falling victims to the persistent effort of employers to maintain and increase the existing antagonism. And to a large extent.

Evil Rift

Recently some very serious situations have developed in certain firms in the engineering and clothing industry. Colonials have been charged with blacklegging. During the period of an existing dispute between workers and management, colonials have been known to accept employment with a firm subject to the terms which have caused the dispute and sometimes worse.

This is creating a serious rift between English and colonial workers, and if allowed to continue might create conditions quite unfavourable to both, but more so to the coloured worker. But this situation must not be allowed to continue. Therefore it falls upon colonials with a clearer understanding to contact and impress upon our countrymen the dangers of such folly.

Of course in many cases ignorance of trade union principles might quite justly be the excuse. In others it is simply the need for a job. Thus it can be seen that the trade unions themselves must accept some of the blame. The importance of drawing coloured workers into trade unions, into the working class struggle, is not grasped by enough union representatives in shops and factories.

It follows, therefore, that the task of eradicating this danger rests mainly not on our shoulders, but should be a joint effort of the British T.U. movement with the assistance of progressive colonial organisations in Britain.

BOOK WORLD

'If only we were strong enough

WHENEVER you hear a West Indian or any other colonial say this again, just get out your copy of ALLIES FOR FREEDOM, hand it to her or him, collect 6/- in return, and you will have done them the next kindest act, short of national independence.

Last April a conference was held in London at the Caxton Hall, with representatives from the leading Workers and Communist Parties from every corner of the British Empire.

What a colourful affair?—not only the costumes, not only the variety of accents, with the slow West Indian drawal, the soft cultured tones of educated Indians, or the quick excited note of the impatient Irishman, Michael O'Riordan, who with conflicting emotions, declared, " We were the first country to be oppressed by British Imperialism and have the longest record of resistance."

★ ★

Now let me introduce to you an Englishman, one who has himself suffered much in poverty in Britain's industrial hovels and one who has suffered much for the fight he has put up in defence of working-class conditions, this in his own words was the political picture in India as he saw it even earlier in 1954,

> " As long as I live, as long as I have breath in my body, I never want to see again the things that I saw in that great country. They are seared like red-hot iron on the tablets of my memory. I felt dishonoured and ashamed, and bereft of the power of expression. I thought of what I would feel AND DO if my wife and son and daughter had to live as I saw other mothers and children living."

—this was Harry Pollitt, Secretary of the Communist Party in Britain.

At the conference, representatives from Britain's imperial monster, retold a story, yes it was one story of oppression, robbery and violence, but it also contained the aspirations of 400 million people shouting from the Sudan, Singapore and San Fernando.

Just tell me how much of this, where every facility was available to the Press, appeared in the national newspapers in Britain or her colonies?

This is your answer, to so much that we all have been denied. The publication ALLIES FOR FREEDOM is a document available from Central Books Ltd., Red Lion Square, W.C.1, which will explain and encourage even the most diffident, with the strength it promises. Whether one agrees or not with the conclusions expounded, this factual material from the man on the spot is not available elsewhere, and there can be no gainsaying the elementary truth that climaxed the historic introduction to the general debate, as formulated by perhaps the most widely known and read English theoretician on Political Economy, Mr. R. Palme Dutt;

> " The solidarity between the working-class in the imperialist countries and the struggle of the colonial working-class and the national liberation movement of the colonial and dependent peoples needs to find expression not only in words and resolutions, but in practical action. When the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers voted money to help the Nigerian miners after the Enugu shooting or when a progressive lawyer like D. N. Pritt goes out to Kenya, Pakistan or British Guiana to defend colonial fighters under attack by imperialism, or when Lieutenant David Larder refused to carry out atrocities against the Kenya African peoples and faced court-martial for his refusal; these are declarations of practical solidarity the extension of which can ALONE make the alliance a living reality and a power capable of defeating the imperialist enemy."

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

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ADDRESS ....

....

NEW GUIANA RAIDS

ON August 2nd police were active throughout the colony on operations entirely different from any carried out before. In Berbice there were numerous raids and sixteen persons were held by police for fourteen hours for questioning. Police stood guard for 24 hours at the home of Dr. Jagan's parents in Plantation Port Mourant while the house was searched and the yard dug up.

In Georgetown, police raided the homes of Rory Westmaas and Martin Carter at 4 a.m. and also raided the Arcade printery and the P.P.P. office. Police threw a barbed wire barricade over the public road at Buxton holding up all traffic, searching cars and persons for several hours. Two days later they barricaded the road on the West Coast of Demerara.

There have been rumours, followed by an article in the " Daily Chronicle ", that leading members of the P.P.P. are soon to be deported. The editor of the "Daily Argosy " has on several occasions called editorially for deportations.

Legal Shackles

On August 9th Rory Westmaas, Junior Vice-Chairman of the P.P.P., was found guilty on a charge of violating his restriction orders. On one occasion he failed to report at the required time of 8-10 a.m. daily at the Police Station. The magistrate fined him $150 (about 30 guineas) or, in default, three months' imprisonment. Westmaas, representing himself, told the court that " the Emergency Order is an imperialist law designed to suppress the aspirations of the people for independence ".

Brindley Benn, leader of the proscribed Pioneer Youth League, was found guilty on one charge of having prohibited literature in his possession at the New Amsterdam Court on August 9th. The four other charges were dismissed. Benn was unrepresented by counsel, as Barrister Burnham was refused permission to travel to New Amsterdam and Benn was refused permission to travel to Georgetown to consult counsel.

He was fined $35 or, in default, two months' imprisonment. It is understood that the case will be appealed.

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

DO you know that every day my work in the CLC becomes more and more intriguing?

Over the past month we have had young students calling in for advice on their position with relation to compulsory national service; we have had the pathetic stream of job-hunters, and house seekers. It's gruesome in some respects, pitiful in many, but the one positive reassurance is that our people know where to turn in time of need—it is a privilege for which we are humbly grateful.

Our Membership Organisers have been working hard and winning new members by explaining why we are faced with so many problems and hindrances here in Britain.

Colonialism

How quickly is it understood too! The first two meetings we held on this burning question clearly showed this. How quickly everyone sees that the root of all the trouble is our inferior colonial status, and for that reason turn attention towards the talks of the Federal Constitution in 1956.

True, it is not what we want, it is glorified crown colony status, but with all the baloney put out both at home and abroad, more and more questions come rolling in to us. This enthusiasm lays the lie at the tripe our shady pessimists put out, that we have no national pride!

Humbly we acknowledge all those queries, from St. Lucia, Paris, the Bahamas, Dominca, and New York. CARIBBEAN NEWS honours to that trade union secretary in Bermuda, who volunteered and paid up FIVE years annual subscriptions in advance!

Is this the spectre that is haunting Viscount Chandos of Aldershot?

Same Difference

Hmm, Lyttelton has gone and Lennox-Boyd is in. Seriously, there is very little difference in it, Mr. Oliver Lyttelton the pugnacious businessman, was equally at home controlling his capitalist octopus—ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES—exploiting millions of workers, or pursuing Tory policy for the plundering of colonial resources.

One only has to look at the blatant advertisements that appear listing AEI subsidaries, British-Thomson Houston, Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical, Edison Swan Electric, etc., simultaneously telling us of the successful contracts secured by BTH to supply " the six 16,770-kva waterwheel alternators at Owen Falls dam in UGANDA.

Now the Viscounty, CHANDOS of ALDERSHOT, for loyal duties to British colonialism; but this is not entirely a novelty. The title has long been in the family, dating back to 1554—the heyday of Elizabethan slave trading and land grabbing.

Since Lyttelton sat in the old War Office saddle at the Colonial Office in 1951, until July 28th, 1954, his regime saw the war in Malaya rise to more terror, Kenya driven to the depths of a blood-bath and Guiana denuded of democracy.

Insult on Injury

Now he has been superseded by Mr. Lennox-Boyd, a more practised politician in the rough and tumble of the electioneering arena.

Too well, will the WEST INDIAN STUDENTS' UNION recall that occasion (1952) when we jointly presented a foolproof case on the denial of civil liberties in the British occupied Caribbean. The bewilderment was to be seen to be believed—after a futile glance at the two fulltime hirelings from the Colonial Office. the adjournment was announced for approximately one month! To date, there have been more bans on travel, on literature, on free speech.

Now for the " I told you so " quotation:
Georgetown: September 13th: " Although the release of Dr. Jagan today . . . ." TIMES.
Didn't I promise you this last month?

'Desperate for a Job'

ANOTHER 680 Jamaicans arrived in Britain on September 22nd. About 400 men and 280 women and children.

The appalling unemployment in the West Indies can be gauged by the official figures given for arrivals from Jamaica alone. Since 1948 they averaged 1,500 to 2,000 a year but this year the number has jumped to over 6,000 from January to September. If West Indians from Guiana, Trinidad and other territories are included the figure would be much higher.

The *Birmingham Post* writes of three recent arrivals who had been unemployed for five years in Jamaica, and were "desperate for a job". These West Indians must for the most part borrow from £80 to £100 to get over to Britain in the hope of finding a job.
(See report on Unemployment on Page 2)

VIGOROUS PROTEST

THE Jamaican House of Representatives has urged the Government to "vigorously protest" to the Canadian government over the discrimination shown towards a Jamaican girl, Miss Dorothy Holtz. Miss Holtz who went over to British Columbia to marry a Canadian school teacher, was given 5 days' notice to leave the school because of the colour of her skin.

It is understood that the young lady has learned a good deal through her experience.

White Miners Reject Colour Bar

READERS may remember seeing press reports that a Jamaican miner was refused employment at the Denaby Colliery by a Labour Officer on the grounds that the white coal miners would not work with a coloured man. The Caribbean Labour Congress (London) wrote the secretary of the branch concerned, and received the reply which we publish below from Mr. G. M. Hanson, Secretary of the Denaby Branch, National Union of Mineworkers, in which the full facts are given.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Many thanks for your letter dated August 19th, which was read at our last Branch Meeting at which I was instructed to give you the whole facts regarding the coloured Jamican seeking employment at Denaby Colliery.

The first intimation we had that this man had even sought employment at this colliery was when we saw the statement in the *Daily Herald* that we had refused to work with Fabion McIntosh because he was coloured.

These are the facts. In 1950 this Branch along with every other Miners' Branch in the Country was asked if we would accept Foreign Labour in our pits. This Labour was Italian and Polish, and we, like many other Branches in South Yorkshire, refused; our reasons for refusing being (a) we were of the opinion that the Mining Industry could be made attractive enough to attract British Labour, and (b) we had a fairly large number of young miners who were waiting to be upgraded and in our opinion the introduction of Foreign Labour would make their position worse.

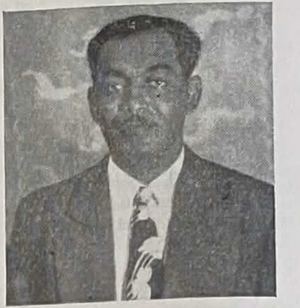
We never at any time discussed the problem from the point of view of a man's colour, in fact, a coloured Jamaican worked at this pit for many years until he died. His two sons commenced as boys, one worked here until he died some 12 months ago, and the other is still working happily alongside us. It would appear that Fabian McIntosh answered an advertisement and applied to Mr G. H. Farrow, Area No. 3 Labour Officer, for a job at Denaby and was accepted. In a further letter to the Labour Officer he revealed the fact that he was coloured.

This Officer then, without even consulting the Branch to see if his facts were correct, replied that he could not come to Denaby as the Branch would not work with coloured or foreign nationals, thus imputing that we at Denaby were operating the Colour Bar. We strongly resent this and say quite bluntly that we do not mind whatever colour a man is, if he is a worker and a Trade Union member he will be treated with the same consideration by us as any other worker.

Yours fraternally,
G. M. Hanson.

Victory for 3 P.P.P. men in St. Vincent —

Election frauds alleged

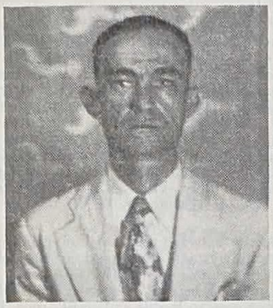


H.F.Young
South Leeward Constituency

ST. VINCENT people's leader, E. T. Joshua, president of the People's Political Party, and two other P.P.P., candidates, E. A. Joachim and H. F. Young, won seats in the August elections. Together they polled 4,549 votes while independents who gained the other five seats together polled 3,653.

Meanwhile thousands of signatures have been collected for a petition forwarded to Colonial Secretary Lennox-Boyd alleging various offences committed by the landlord-government bloc prior to and on election day.

The extraordinary figure of 1,749 votes were rejected.



E.D.Joachim
North Leeward Constituency

The fact that for, roughly speaking, every eight votes cast one is rejected is by itself no surprising comment on the standard of education after hundreds of years of British rule.

Yet of the rejected ballots only 64 were rejected in the Central Windward constituency where illiteracy is held to be highest as compared to 107 in the capital city Kingstown.

Further, in North Windward, where Joshua won triumphantly, the Government, following polling day, ordered all crown land holders to quit, estate owners having issued notices to all renters. Not to be outdone, the Grand Sable estate has issued no less than thirty quit notices.

Every winning P.P.P., candidate received more than a thousand votes. Only one independent received over 900 votes and there were nineteen candidates posing as independents and seeking to split the P.P.P. vote.

The St. Vincent people who have so convincingly shown their faith in Joshua and the P.P.P., are now seeking to send him to England to prove the case contained in their petition.

Inevitably he is having difficulty in getting his ticket. But then freedom to travel was never meant for colonials.

Popular Front for Jamaica

HUNDREDS of delegates attended a conference called by Jamaica's People's Freedom Movement at Forresters last August. Sponsors were a broad group of citizens dissatisfied with the policies of the two major political parties.

Special applause went to Richard Hart, general secretary of the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions, when he attacked the "rottenness" of the Bustamente Party and indicted the Peoples National Party for betraying the people and the struggle for national independence.

Rolly Simms presided and present were Ferdinand Smith, president of J.F.T.U., Miss Gwen Edwards and Mr. R. O. Gordon, election candidates.

The People's Freedom Movement, it was stressed, was not a political party but a broad front popular movement designed to put pressure on reactionary politicians, and further progressive policies.

A People's Programme, agreed on after a full debate, called for £1 per week unemployment assistance; the vote at 18; the right to recall unsatisfactory representatives by petition of the majority of the electors; and a campaign to free the island from exploiters.

Meanwhile leaders of the J.F.T.U., and the affiliated Sugar and Agricultural Workers Union have been carrying the struggle to the working class throughout the length and breadth of Jamaica.

FREE GUIANESE

Over 1,000 signatures collected in Jamaica to a petition demanding the immediate release of imprisoned Guianese patriots was dispatched to the Tory Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lennox Boyd.

A letter enclosing the petition through the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) called upon the Tory Government to end the fascist rule that has been established in Guiana following the overthrow of the Government of Dr. Jagan by the British troops and warships on October 9th, 1953.

The text of the letter to the C.L.C. stated in part:

"The tireless work of the C.L.C., in the cause of Caribbean freedom continues to be an inspiration to the peoples of the Caribbean in their struggles against imperialism and oppression. Your militant drive in the fight against imperialism in Guiana is new proof of this; and we are confident that with your help final victory belongs to the people of Guiana.

Long live the C.L.C."

In the meantime more petitions are being signed and will be forwarded to the Colonial Office soon.

CALL TO RURAL YOUTH

LAST year the young people of the little village of Ravenna, Italy, called a meeting to discuss their conditions, which like most other young people in Rural Areas suffer from numerous injustices such as very low wages, no proper educational, recreational and health facilities.

After a thorough discussion it was decided to ask the World Federation of Democratic Youth to initiate a World gathering of Rural youth. All member organisations fully agreed to this and a preparatory Committee was set up with headquarters in Vienna.

The first meeting of the Committee met in April at Vinding-Veile, Denmark, and issued an appeal, part of which follows:

"We believe that this Gathering will give the opportunity to youth representatives to discuss their conditions of life, to state their needs, to map out the path to win these needs, and will contribute to strengthening the unity of rural youth in all lands in their desire for a better future, mutual understanding and friendship.

"Young peasants, farmers and tied farmers!
Young agricultural workers!
Young teachers, doctors, technicians and agronomists living in the countryside!
Rural Youth!

"In response to your call for land, guaranteed work and adequate wages, to win tax and rent reductions, to improve agricultural working conditions, to achieve your desire for proper training, for full use of leisure time, to take part in sport, for the assurance of democratic rights for peace and national independence of your country.

Unite!

"Unite! Prepare for the International Rural Youth Gathering!"

This Gathering is well timed and no one is in need of a meeting of this type as the West Indian Youth who are going through untold hardship. We must make our voices echo through the globe. We must start discussing our problems NOW in every house, street, town and territory. Invite youth leaders to speak throughout the West Indies. For further information write to:

Youth Organiser, Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), 3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1. England.

Typhoid Threatens African Prisoners

Kenya—Several cases of typhoid fever have broken out at the Kanyani Concentration Camp.

Over 12,000 Kenya Africans are detained there, and it is feared that unless inadequate medical facilities are strengthened quickly, scores of internees would die.

Units of the Kenya Liberation Army attacked the Lakinia prison releasing over 200 prisoners. They captured large stores of ammunition and guns.

British Army authorities claim the recapture of 90 prisoners.

★

African Pimpernal

They seek him here
They seek him there
Those Impis seek him everywhere.

Is he in Neri,
Is he in Nairobi,
That fearless patriot, Kimathi.

(By Chris)

Heavy British troop formations have been combing the Neri region for Didan Kimathi, "Mau-Mau" leader . . . . It has since been reported that it was he who led the great attack on Lakinia concentration camp . . . and hundreds escaped to freedom.

Caribbean News
the paper that will always
fight to set the people free

Foreign Affairs

Manilla Pact

By E. Chris LeMaitre

AMERICA and her imperialist partners have formed another aggressive bloc. And S.E.A.T.O. is a well-calculated slap in the face of the heroic Asian peoples. Fifteen years of remarkable progress in the national liberation movement has been undermined by Pakistan, the Philippines and Siam.

That the Philippines, a ward of America, and Siam—under a dictatorship—joined the pact, is no surprise. But Pakistan's inclusion is shockingly immoral.

Though we do not expect Pakistan's parliament to ratify the pact, we look forward hopefully to the forthcoming meeting of the Colombo Powers. We believe Pakistan's folly would be shown to her by her Colombo partners in time to save her from the imperialist path.

Premier
Nehru
of
India

S.E.A.T.O. is aggressive in character and intent. This is seen by its declaration on Cambodia, Laos and Southern Viet Nam, in contravention of the Geneva agreement.

On the credit side, China, India and Indonesia have denounced it, and Ceylon has ignored it.

Mr. Nehru, Indian Prime Minister, has described it as "most unfortunate and likely to encourage aggression", and would "create an atmosphere of war".

While American planes drop American bombs on China; while treacherous Chinese murder their countrymen at America's command, we wonder whether S.E.A.T.O. is to defend or offend South East Asia, and destroy Asians.

Death of E.D.C.

THE French parliament by a majority vote has killed E.D.C. No peace lover or nation should mourn its over-due demise.

A vigorous campaign led by Communist M.P's. removed the terrifying spectre of a supra European army—one with ex-Nazi generals holding prominent positions. Such an army, having German contingents pledged to pursue the Adenauer line, would have pulled it into conflicts endangering world peace.

For Adenauer's policy, as he stated on September 7th, 1953, is: "Instead of reunification let us rather talk about liberation, liberation of our brethren in slavery in the East. This is our aim, and that we shall achieve—but only with outside help".

France's position in European affairs, wavering since the end of the last war, has been brought to the front line by its bold decision.

After E.D.C., Premier Mendes-France should turn down any militaristic alliance offered by America and Britain. His "all-European" peace plan should be as bold and decisive as his parliament's E.D.C. vote. And to be that bold it must contain the peaceful character of Molotov's all-European (East and West) fifty years Non-Aggression-Pact.

Labour's Goodwill Tour

THE visit of Mr. Attlee and his group of labour leaders to the Soviet Union and China has been hailed as good and right in progressive quarters—America's ignorant rantings notwithstanding.

That two former ministers of the British government made the trip is of the greatest importance. It is important from two aspects.

The one—British electors are disappointed at the failures of the Tory government, and would not hesitate in replacing it at the next elections by a Labour government. Such a government would be headed by Mr. Attlee. And he has met the great leaders, Malenkov and Mao Tse Tung, of the Soviet Union and China respectively.

With them he discussed peaceful co-existence as Lenin, who created the phrase, showed how capitalism and socialism could live together.

And the other—wherever the delegation went in the two countries, they saw great industrial, social, and cultural projects under way. Clearly it was seen that no country could undertake such peaceful developments and intensive rearmament at the same time.

We eagerly await Mr. Attlee's return. That is, to see if as Leader of the Opposition, he would use his office to strengthen ties between Britain, China, and the Soviet Union.

TOO MUCH SUGAR

continued from page 1

The COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT which limits West Indian sugar for the British market to 670,000 tons with 18,000 tons from British Honduras, is a result of our subjugation to Britain, and their in turn capitalist participation in the restriction of food production, in the interests of higher prices. Prices which do not benefit sugar workers and their ancilliaries who sweat and strain throughout the Caribbean for absentee foreign landlords.

Sugar is the largest employer of labour in the West Indies, more than 30% of the employed labour force. Any tiny inroad on the already highly tensioned economy is felt in geometrical proportions amongst the over-exploited people.

The JAMAICAN sugar worker earns on an average 9/- per day for a MAXIMUM of 5 months of the year. For 7 months there is no crop, no unemployment pay, no national assistance; total earnings for the working year therefore never exceed £50-£60, giving an overall average of about £1 per week. Guiana, Barbados, Honduras, Trinidad compare equally.

So much for the *TIMES* Summer Supplement 1954, which stated that "the International Sugar Agreement which was eventually negotiated and which came into force on January 1st, 1954 fully *protects* the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement".

Profits from Poverty

On September 7th, the City Editor of that same illustrious organ the *TIMES*, was quite blunt he admitted, speaking for big business, that the "session (of the Ex. Cttee. of the I.S.C.) is awaited with anxious interest by the world's sugar traders" because the spot price, *"remains below the minimum of 3.25 cents prescribed by the sugar agreement."*

What a travesty of our period, when millions starve in the luscious islands of the entrancing Caribbean, no sugar, no work; the incidence of praedial larceny rises, flogging is re-instituted, over crowded prisons bulge at the seams—and against this we have Bookers Of BG and Tate & Lyle with their subsidiaries, reporting profits of over Twelve million West Indian dollars (for Jamaicans £2,500,000) for last year.

This is the price of colonialism!

Unholy Alliance

Still unsatisfied with their crime against mankind, the Int. Sugar Council has invited India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Peru to join this unholy alliance.

When the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was accepted in London 1951, West Indian representatives including the Hon. Albert Gomes, Hon. W. Busta, "Prime Minister" Grantley Adams agreed that our sugar production, potentially 1,000,000 tons should be limited by the British quota. Think of the unemployed in the islands, look at the grief and sorrow that molests the West Indian peasant-farmer, that has no alternative, chained to a single crop economy.

Added to this plight, there is now to be a cutting of exports in their words, a surplus of 254,000 tons to be disposed of. The consequences scream at you from the cold print of black and white and we see more sorrow, more grief, more unemployment, more starvation, DEATH.

Over-population?

Simultaneously with these fiendish plans, conferences have been meeting in London, Denmark and elsewhere, assisted by very learned professors of bourgeois economics who are obsessed with capitalism's inability to feed the world's increasing population. It must be admitted that this is all too ridiculous to believe, *but it is the stark truth.*

The World Health Organisation, UNRRA, Colonial Development funds, Truman's notorious Point 4 Programme, World Bank, everyone is fully exposed for the fraud that they intentionally have been. Society that offers production in plenty, production for use and NOT for profit are our only refuge. Look at the practical possibilities; read and reread every report of visitors and investigators who have travelled throughout the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland, Eastern Europe and China. Population increase in China alone, is estimated at 12 millions annually, and this is greeted with all the uninhibited welcome that man was made to exhibit, at the sight of a new healthy vigorous advancing society.

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DANCING TILL MIDNIGHT

Photo by Barry's

THE C.L.C. Summer Dance at the Royal Hotel on Saturday, 11th September, provided the social event of the year.

From early evening until midnight, hundreds of dancers enjoyed themselves to the music of Ginger Johnson's Afro-Cuban and Latin American orchestras. Among them were scores of West Indians who had recently arrived in Britain.

Among the notables present were Phoebe Kwaku, who recently in one of her articles paid tribute to the C.L.C., Miss Katherine Davis, popular Radio Trinidad announcer who is in England appearing frequently on the radio, T.V. and Films, and Yack Subero, Trinidad contender for the B.W.I. Welterweight crown, who is presumably holidaying here from Holland where he is on contract along with five other Trinidad boxers.

A happy group of revellers was caught by our cameraman in the picture above.

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Racial Discrimination Must Go!

THE Caribbean Labour Congress held a successful meeting in protest against racial discrimination at the Co-op. Hall, Kilburn, N.W.6, on Friday, 3rd September.

Carlton Bayley, Vice-President of the C.L.C., presided. He condemned racial discrimination which he called the chief weapon of the imperialists in dividing the colonial and British workers, in order to exploit them.

Mr. J. P. Compton, President of the League of Coloured Peoples, Ltd., described the colour bar as an instrument of control used by the imperialists. This was essential to their policy of divide and rule.

However, "by bringing to the notice of the British workers the conditions in the colonies", he said that a solution to this vexed problem would be found. He ended by calling for unity among West Indians in the fight for national independence.

Bringing the meeting to its end, Billy Strachan, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress, L/B, compared the problems of coloured people with that of the Irish people and other minority groups.

A follow-up meeting was held at 3 Robert Street, Euston, on Thursday, 9th September. Principal speaker George Pefkos, editor of the Cypriot paper "VEMA", described the repressive regime under which his people lived in Cyprus.

Accusing imperialism as the common enemy of all workers, irrespective of colour, he called for a determined alliance of colonial and British workers to successfully combat the common enemy.

WEST INDIES CLASSES

A series of fortnightly classes will be held by the Caribbean Labour Congress at 3 Robert St., N.W.1. The first class will be on Friday, 29th October, 1954, at 7.30 p.m., and the last on Friday, 10th December, 1954. These classes will deal with the origin of the West Indians, their social and economic life, and the future of the West Indies. The public are invited, and are asked to do some previous reading of one or all of the following books:—

"The Negro in the Caribbean" by Pro. Eric Williams, "Forbidden Freedom" by Dr. C. Jagan, "Negro Victory" by Dr. H. Moody, "Colour Bar" by L. Constantine, "Allies for Freedom", Workers Parties Conference Report (Farleigh Press Ltd.), "A People Reborn" published by Lawrence & Wishart.

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

NOV-DEC 1954

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

Tribute to Janet in Prison

From Thunder

WEDNESDAY, 20th October was the birthday of Janet Jagan, Secretary of our Party. This year Janet was not at home with her family, her friends and comrades.

Indeed, the day was spent in the Georgetown Jail.

Janet is in Prison today because Magistrate Burch Smith found her quilty of holding an illegal meeting and sentenced her to three months.

Our Secretary argued that she was not guilty and rather than pay a fine, she elected to go to prison.

Last week Janet's son, Joe, celebrated his fifth birthday. A small party was given for Joe and even though his little friends had an enjoyable time, it was obvious to all adults that someone was missing.

Joe's mother was in jail. But for Joe even though he is only five years, he has got accustomed to having one of his parents away from home.

Unfortunately he is not old enough to realise that his parents are two people who are loved by the entire

continued on page 5

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HANDS OFF GRENADA AND ST. VINCENT PEOPLE'S LEADERS!
BIG BUSINESS JAGAN VICTOR IN B.G. POLL
JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE
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UNION IN

We share with you

ON this second anniversary of "Caribbean News", the editorial staff joins readers and sellers in recording a publishing achievement over the past two years which has only been possible through the continued support of its readers.

This is YOUR paper, designed to bring you into contact with the struggle against the colour bar, for a better life and freedom for the West Indies.

Foremost mention must be made of those who, like Miss Margaret Rickards from Jamaica (photo below), sell "Caribbean News" at Tube Stations, on the street and in your homes, without whose constant energy your paper could not exist.

Picture on left shows some previous issues of "Caribbean News".

CARIBBEAN
CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.
WHY THE YANKEE ATTACK ON GUATEMALA

7,000 West Indians in eight months

LIKE dragon seed the harvest is in abundance, and the policy of colonial neglect and industrial deprivation continues to drive thousands from home in search of jobs, health and education.

On October 5th the Colonial Office through the Welfare Liaison Officer, Mr. J. de Souza, held an informal tea party to bring together representatives of West Indian organisations in London, as a pool of information from which to extract ideas for a solution.

Most important of all there appears to have been an underlying motive directed at the enactment of legislation to prevent unchecked emigration to Britain. This has been supported by the reported comments of Sir Hugh Foot, Governor of Jamaica, recently in Washington on return from Britain. He is reported to have said that in view of the "restriction" on white English people entering the West Indies, it was his opinion that some restriction on West Indians coming to Britain could be considered "reasonable".

Back in London at Sanctuary Buildings (Colonial Office), to the credit of progress, there was one unanimous voice against this Hitlerian legislation. The only suggestion of legislation, also unanimous, was that there should be a law enacted in the British Constitution, making racial discrimination a crime.

Again proposals were put forward for the calling of an All-London Conference with Borough and County Council representatives, delegates from the Trades Councils and Trade Unions, along with West Indian representatives, to thrash out a democratic policy and ensure for all concerned the Government dictum that there shall be no discrimination, and a final chapter written on that hideous offence — the colour bar.

WINS OPERATIC CONTEST

Mr. Sookoor Mohamed, West Indian tenor, was chosen winner in the operatic section of the Cavalcade of Song and Dance at the Albert Hall on Sunday, 10th October, 1954. This is the second time that a West Indian has emerged winner in this international festival. This year there were two West Indians among the five finalists.

Vic Richardson's troupe of West Indian dancers performed splendidly to an appreciative audience.

★ EDITORIAL ★

Second Birthday

"CARIBBEAN NEWS" has this month completed two years of service in the cause of the West Indian people who desire and are struggling to make a better West Indies for themselves and posterity.

Since its first publication there has always been an uphill struggle. It has been hard going but those responsible for production and sales have always faced it with determination.

It is a newspaper reporting on people's organisations at work in the various places of the British Caribbean. The powerful press gang of the local papers are devoted to the service of the monopolists and their adherents. They are always ready to explain how badly off the poor companies are when forced to make fair concessions.

We are always ready to explain the conditions that force the working people to demand the right to live decently. Also, we encourage them to unite and go forward, by reporting the achievements of workers' and peasants' organisations in other parts of the world.

Last anniversary's issue was in time to report the case of British Guiana when the "savage" blow was cowardly struck against the People's Progressive Party democratically elected government. "Caribbean News" is proud of the part it played in making available to West Indians Dr. Jagan's and Mr. Burnham's side of the story.

"Caribbean News" also plays an important role in bringing to the notice of the English public the sufferings of the West Indian people and their efforts to alleviate them. As for the thousands of West Indians who have to be in England because of economic necessity, this is their chance of acquainting themselves with facts of other parts of the West Indies, about which that they could not previously have had.

The production of "Caribbean News" is not elaborate. Ordinary men and women who are convinced of its value collect and collate the news. When this is done and it is printed, they man several points on the street and elsewhere and sell the paper. Subsequent issues depend on the previous sales. "Caribbean News" appeals to West Indians and friends for their support. Send us any news you think of value. Ensure receiving your copy by the subscription method which is free. Above all, help to sell the paper.

The staff of "Caribbean News" extend their gratitude to all who have helped to keep the paper going and look forward to continued and increased support to carry on the work.

By Comparison

TO ANY who tend to criticise the P.P.P. Government in British Guiana for acting rashly during the latter days of its existence, an interesting lesson will be found in the following two incidents:-

On the 24th September, towards the ending of the month during which the sugar workers had demonstrated their support for the G.I.W.U., Mr. Ashton Chase, Labour Minister, introduced the Labour Relations Bill. To avoid hardship to the workers due to unnecessary delay, he moved the suspension of Standing Orders, after the Bill had run five of the seven days required by statute.

The Speaker refused his request.

By the second week of October the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, had suspended all the Ministers. On the 9th October the Constitution was suspended. Before a week had passed, British troops had landed. Within a few weeks P.P.P. leaders were being carted to jail.

But check on what happened in British Guiana on 13th September this year. A Bill was introduced by a British Government official, not an elected Minister. It would permit the Governor to seize, ban or destroy anything published by anybody at any time if even the publication had never existed before.

For this beautiful Bill to be passed quickly, the Governor asked that Standing Orders be suspended. And the Speaker agreed. And the Bill was passed. All in one lovely evening. And no warships came.

A People' Programme for Jamaica

IN the last two months, two programmes have been presented to the Jamaican people.

One is put out by the newly founded People's Freedom Movement, while the other comes from the Manley-led People's National Party.

Arising out of the broad dissatisfaction of many with the existing political parties and programmes, the People's Freedom Movement initiated a Conference in Kingston where 250 delegates adopted a programme covering all the main points for winning a better life.

SOUND MANDATE

It was put forward, in the terms of the resolution, as "the programme which a true representative of the people, when elected, should press for in the House of Representatives, and that all candidates for election should be tested as to whether or not they will pledge themselves to fight for the real needs of the people.

Demanding an end to imperialist rule, the programme goes on to give detailed constructive proposals.

On LABOUR, the government is called upon to either find work for the 200,000 unemployed, or pay not less than £1 a week each. The demand is made for democratic trade unions and government recognition of unions of the workers' own choice.

Equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, age or nationality; holidays with pay; a pension for every worker equal to at least half his wages, payable at the age of 55 years; these are just some of the demands.

For WOMEN, maternity leave with full pay for at least 14 weeks and prohibition of dismissal of pregnant women or nursing mothers, are called for.

YOUNG WORKERS would have a systematic apprentice scheme, and decent wages for apprentices.

For SMALL and MIDDLE FARMERS: guaranteed markets and good prices, loans at low rates, agricultural machinery stations, co-operative facilities for buying implements, suckers, etc.; compulsory acquisition of unused land for settlement.

On COST OF LIVING, the programme demands lowering the price of essential goods by cutting wholesalers' profits and lowering import duties; subsidies of essential foodstuffs, where necessary, lowering of indirect taxes and taxing the rich more.

BREAK SHACKLES

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT is to be based on taking over the foreign-owned undertakings which strangle Jamaica, running them for the benefit of Jamaicans, and encouraging local industry.

The need for HOUSING and EDUCATION is put.

In conclusion, FEDERATION is supported as a means of strengthening Jamaica's development and trading position—a federation in which each unit has control of its internal affairs, not the British Government's plan which is "half slave, half free."

Compared with this policy for really ending the people's misery, the programme of Manley's P.N.P. rings hollow.

VAGUE PLATITUDES

Under the heading "Labour Programme"—it appears next to the last item on the programme—the P.N.P. begins by trotting out the good old platitudes "Labour must play its full part in the economic march forward to better days". "Miserable conditions will have to be removed". "More satisfactory division of the National Income." And so on and so on.

It demands the abolition of child labour, a 45-hour week, annual leave with pay.

Unemployment gets the largest paragraph and the vaguest treatment. Encouragement of foreign and local capital is envisaged as the main correction though, and this is a gem, "workers may have in particular cases to accept wages that can only be justified on the footing that an industry is being built up and has yet to prove it can succeed."

GOOD FAITH

Effective Industrial Relations machinery must be set up for dispute, a fair Labour Code implemented. Unemployment assistance must be "favourably" considered with a scheme for providing systematic assistance "in cases of hardship among the unemployed".

The subject of "Industrial Development" occupies first place in the announcement and gets thorough treatment. The P.N.P. pledges fullest support for capital attraction schemes and "guarantees to maintain the utmost good faith in our relations with foreign investors."

And for the nearest to even a pseudo-Socialist policy there is this bit on power: "We will insist on the fullest development of our power resources which can only remain in private ownership provided the needs of Industry and Agriculture and Consumer demand are met. An end must be put to the out of date 40 cycle system of power."

SOLIDARITY WITH DOCKERS

FOR 28 days the port workers of Britain have been on strike, in the biggest stoppage in British labour history since the General Strike of 1926. This militant action by the dockers in defence of their elementary rights has ended in victory for them. Their strike was no picnic as some tend to think, but involved severe sacrifice by the men, their wives and children.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) was privileged to make a contribution of £2 to the strike fund, and in this small way to show the solidarity of West Indian workers with their British comrades.

Coloured Busmen Successful

IT is now about six months that 200 coloured conductors and conductresses have been working on Birmingham's buses. They have proved a success, playing in the football and cricket teams, taking part in the social functions.

Union officials — it's Deakin's Transport and General Workers' Union — report themselves "agreeably surprised", says the "Birmingham Post". Proposals to hire coloured people to supplement the greatly under-staffed bus service had led, last May, to hot debates.

Yet the shortage still remains, in the Midlands as well as in London. Have they ever heard about decent wages?

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DONT FORGET THE FUND

Give a contribution to a Caribbean News seller and help your paper to to fight harder

Reconsider, British Honduras!

ACCORDING to our reports from Jamaica the Hon. Leigh Richardson, head of the elected members of the British Honduras Legislature and leaders of the People's United Party, has declared that British Honduras cannot "now think of Federation".

Reasons he advanced in an interview with a Jamaican newspaper were the present socio-economic situation in British Honduras, the nature of the proposed Federal Constitution and the inadvisability of immigration.

It will be remembered that the P.U.P. was swept to victory in April this year, despite the slanders of the press which alleged Communist control despite the fruitless probe of a British Government Commission which had to give up trying to prove that the P.U.P. was receiving Moscow gold via Guatemala City.

To claim that the Federal Constitution is no good would be stating the obvious. This proposed constitution is a bad joke. But the principle of federation of all the West Indian people is a necessary political fact and we need to hear that fact shouted by W.I. people's leaders.

All suffer

To claim that British Honduras socio-economic problems are a deterrent means nothing. All the West Indian people suffer from the same problems that result from colonialism and a one-crop economy. Similar problems bind us together, strengthen our arms and faith.

Lastly to make a stand against West Indian immigration rings very sour in the ears of the young progressive West Indian. It would have gone down very badly indeed here in London where we have learnt that we are not Antiguans, Barbadians and Jamaicans, but all West Indians.

But the general cry against federation, against immigration and shouts for the right to "a continental destiny" has been heard before—in British Guiana.

It was equally invalid then and the way in which it died away in the great roar of the P.P.P. victory to reappear weekly only after the overthrow of the elected government proves this: No West Indian working class movement is sincerely leading unless it stands for all West Indians—TOGETHER.

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

JUST over a year ago the Editorial Board kindly offered me this Corner; for eleven issues it has persisted. Do you think it has been of any use?

It has certainly served one purpose, a lot of people have learnt something of the day to day work that the C.L.C. (London) carry out. The weight of correspondence has been illustrated and when the picture is complete there is the basis for our claim to express the real, sincere political expression in the British occupied territories in the Caribbean.

We are proud of the limited assistance we have been able to give to every single struggle that we knew of in any one territory.

Federation

Now here's a word that has been hackneyed. Remember a feature article that I wrote in the April '53 issue, outlining the real history of Federation? Anyway. it's coming now and the Imperialists are selling it as their product—but what else could you expect from a bunch of crooked thugs? true, it's their brand, but it's our patent! Sticking my neck right out, I'll tell you that they are planning the show for April 1956.

FACT 1: A chappie from Barbados has been appointed as West Indian Trade Commissioner in London last June. His terms of reference are obviously a mystery, as there is no organisation outside the Caribbean Labour Congress that represents the interests of the whole Caribbean. As far as I know our executive in the West Indies have had nothing to do with this.

FACT 2: "Negotiations have been completed for an inter-island shipping service in the Caribbean, for which there has been agitation in the British West Indies ever since the two Canadian vessels, the 'Lady Nelson' and the 'Lady Rodney' were withdrawn from service in 1952.

"It is hoped to begin the new service from Trinidad next January with the steamer 'West Indian' (3,500 tons gross) which will carry passengers and cargo and will be equipped with refrigeration apparatus."

Subsequent news has come in that the Guiana "Government" will contribute 4,800 W.I. dollars to the financing of this vessel, which is another omen as to who is organising this scheme.

It is interesting to note that the owners are going to operate under the name of West Indies Navigation Company, Ltd., allegedly registered in Trinidad and the major shareholders are:

(a) British Imperialism (Colonial Development Corporation).
(b) Jardine Matheson and Co., Ltd.
(c) Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

New suckers

What a crew! Besides our age old enemy, two more throw-outs from the Far East are in search of new suckers; only a week before the Chinese People's Government has to take over the remains of Jardine Matheson, a name that stinks the length of the China/South East Asia coast. As for the other, who has not heard of the triumphal entry the great Indo-Chinese leader made to Hanoi as the last leaden steps of French Imperialism crawled away discredited.

FACT 3: "At the annual British Caribbean Currency Conference held in Trinidad on 28th June, Jamaica—the only British West Indian Colony not in the Caribbean currency system since its introduction early in 1950 was accepted as a participating territory."

These three facts stand out. Now chameleon Foote, His Excellency the Governor, Captain-General in Chief and heaven knows how many more titles, lets another puss out of the bag in Washington, U.S.A. He reckons that West Indian Federation plans will come to fruition in the next few years. Incidentally, if anyone asks, why 'chameleon'? — recall Foote's repeated denials in London supported by Government that they have not been planning legislation to curb migration against his implied threat as to what might be necessary if the big outflow continues.

Perhaps the terror of mere shadows of the Yankee eagle's clutching claw, would turn braver men to worse abstractions!

REPORTED: Ex Committee Member: 'Why do your minutes take hours to read?!'

Colour Bar

BOOK WORLD

Published by Routledge & Kegan Paul, 12/6

MR. CONSTANTINE has written an interesting book which gives a wide if not exhaustive survey of the question he raises in his title. The style is easy and the reader is often laughing. But one is left wondering whether somehow Mr. Constantine has not confused the symptom with the disease.

Colour bar, segregation of social groups and similar injustices are as much part of empire as are the plumes and spurs of a colonial Governor on a Queen's birthday parade. Without this self-inflation a master race would not long remain a master race.

Where, as in the Soviet Union, the working class has removed class domination, colour bars, 'racial' segregation and master races have also been removed. This Mr. Constantine acknowledges, but he is reluctant to accept the causes for it.

★ ★

If he does not rail against communism, he does not approve of it. Why, he does not make clear. But the reader gathers that he does not believe in violence (he can equate, for instance, the 'violence' of Mau Mau with the violence of the Kenya Government against Africans in that country), that he thinks Christian love the answer to all problems, that somehow he is bogged down in West Indian poor great ideas.

This comes out in his reaction to the recent influx of West Indian immigration to Britain whose 'respectable coloured residents' may, he fears, lose credit because 'ignorant boys steal rides on banana boats and then sometimes become hangers-on at race tracks and round the fringe of illegality'.

Mr. Constantine knows that this is not the whole of the problem. He tells us too much of his own experience in hotels, trains, on the cricket ground and elsewhere not to realise that it is not a question of 'the higher a monkey goes the more he shows his tail', but that for many people in bourgeois society all outside their class are monkeys.

I like to think that he is too intelligent to imagine that a few lunch engagements with Royalty or an Open Letter from Christian Bishops can set right this sorry business of imperialism which is the source of all colour bars.

Mr. Constantine tells us that his father taught him to field so well that his brother and he could throw plates and knives for each other to catch. He tells us, too, that he wants to help end the state of things he describes in his book.

In this game of Imperialism versus the Rest, we need all the talented players we can find. We are sure that Mr. Constantine is with the Rest. We hope that he studies the playing of this game as thoroughly as his father made him study cricket, and that he always remembers that the other side is much more likely to throw him a hand-grenade than a plate or an orange to catch.

Peter Blackman

Mr. Learie Constantine, noted West Indian cricketer and author of *Colour Bar*, reviewed above, has recently qualified as a barrister. He is leaving shortly for the West Indies.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

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ADDRESS ....

....

The Peoples Will End Colonial Slavery

FOR us, colonial peoples, the world is divided into two hostile camps—the camp of free and independent nations, sovereign nations on the one hand, and the camp of subject peoples, countries governed by other countries, on the other. In the camp of independent nations are numbered the Soviet Union, China, the People's Democracies of Europe, which exist as independent nations, holding no colonies in subjection.

By SYDNEY KING

Also in the camp of sovereign nations are the nations which hold other nations in subjection—Great Britain, France, Holland and the U.S.A., capitalist countries which have long become dominated by their own monopolies and which have long thrived on the policy of exploiting colonies and semi-colonies.

Sydney King—popular Guiana leader, former Minister in P.P.P. Government

Russia, too, before 1917, was a vile exploiter of "backward" nations. However, the October Socialist Revolution of 1917 put an end to colonialism in the Russian Empire, transforming the former Russian Empire into a union of free and equal nations, with the right to break away from the union at any time. This was the first blow to colonialism of the modern type.

Before 1917, mankind was afforded a great example of how to end the subjection of one country by another. The majority of the capitalists of the thirteen North American British colonies, themselves descendants of the British people, arm in arm with the mass of the American people, fought a bloody war of liberation against British domination, expelled the British and established the United States of America, which developed however under capitalist leadership along imperialist lines.

Many uprisings

Beginning in the last quarter of the eighteenth century (1775) and continuing until about 1837, the Americas were swept by national liberation movements. Following the revolt of the American colonies came the slave revolution in Haiti against France (1790-1803). Then came the anti-colonial revolution throughout the Spanish mainland colonies from Mexico to Argentina from 1809 to 1825. Brazil, the Portugese colony, established its independence in 1822. Canada exploded in 1837 and finally got rid of British troops in 1867.

All this shows that in those times as well there could be no "co-operation" between the colonial powers and the subject peoples.

Today the subject peoples in the colonial and half-colonial countries under Britain, France and Holland are again clinched in combat with the giant of colonialism. This time we are inspired by the examples of China, the leading power of Asia which only a short while ago was under foreign rule. Inspired by China, the Indian peoples and other nations of Asia, Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan, are today strengthening and consolidating their recently won independence.

The Viet Namese people of Indo-China under Ho-Chi-Minh are winning victory after victory against the "dirty" French oppressors, who formerly ruled them. The French and British colony keepers are today supported by the powerful U.S.A., financially and morally—the same U.S.A. whose constitution proclaims liberty for all peoples. The Vietnamese are supported by the powerful French working class and all honest people throughout the world.

This confirms the teaching of V. I. Lenin, that the national liberation movements of the colonies will enjoy greater success when they are supported by the workers in the ruling country. The workers in the ruling country are oppressed by the same class which dominates the colonies. We have faith that the British working class, also, as the general crisis against the rearmament programme and the atom bomb will, as a whole rise to their historic mission of opposing colonial slavery, arm in arm with the revolutionary masses in the colonies.

W. Indies cheered

The wars in Malaya and Kenya, the events in Buganda, Guiana, St. Vincent, Jamaica and Trinidad, have already aroused the indignation of the British Labour Party members, in addition to the Communists. the freedom-loving clergymen and the Peace partisans.

The entire West Indies has been cheered by the determined anti-British stand of the people of Honduras who recently registered their support for the People's United Party, in the face of Government intimidation.

All Africa, from French North to British South, is on fire with the necessity of liberation. From Tunisia to Morocco, from Kenya to the Gold Coast, the African people are determinedly opposing further enslavement by the colonisers and are demanding independence and the right to their own homeland. British Guiana and British Honduras have shown that the entire populations in effect oppose foreign rule.

In every single West Indian territory forces are at work for the quick liberation of our region from the Imperialist grasp. The trade unions are playing, and must continue to play, a great and increasingly important part in this patriotic struggle by uniting the workers in their fight for better wages and working conditions, for social security.

The peoples of the West Indies and of all colonies, by their unceasing action, co-operation, opposition and advance will fulfil their historic calling, they will put an end to colonial slavery and establish the sacred right of the people to rule themselves. Rev. Dr. James Endicott:

> **"Let us stop talking about backward people. The first cure for their 'backwardness' is for us to get off their backs."**

GREETINGS TO 'Freedom'

A NEW paper has made its appearance in the West Indian progressive political scene—this time in Jamaica.

It is called "FREEDOM" and is the official organ of the People's Freedom Movement, whose programme is described elsewhere in this issue. Editor Rolly Sims was a most active member of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) while in London.

At a time when the Jamaican Labour movement is split into four and confusion is rife, "FREEDOM" is beginning to fill a great need for a paper to put the issues clearly before the people in the interest of the people — the unemployed, workers, farmers and middle classes.

Big business dominates the press, and so we all welcome "FREEDOM" and hope that before long it too, like "Thunder" of Guiana, will win the biggest support from the people.

Good luck and all success to all comrades associated in its production and sale.

Bright Business ... *for some*

BY OUR FINANCIAL WIZARD

ON the St. Madeline Sugar Estates with their associated factory, business is really bright. Profits rose sharply to £154, 292 in contrast to a mere £89,662 last year.

Accounts are made up to June 30th annually and this news will keep the Stock Exchange prices on even keel—they could even rise. What does this indicate?

Capitalist investors, that is people with plenty of money, more than they can usefully use, will ogle greedily and then pour in more cash into the hands of a few over-dressed spivs who loiter in narrow Throgmorton Street in London City. These vultures await the news of Trinidad's workers NOT demanding more wages and the obvious increased profits that result.

This company, St. Madeline Sugar, even found that £19,500 previously put aside for taxation will not be required and therefore could pocket it!

The dividend is going up to 9%, that is an increase of £3 for every £100 invested in one year; last year they pinched £6 for every £100—so virtually a wage increase of 50% !!!

Cleverest of all, the Directors have decided to give £50,000 to their shareholders which have accrued over some years. The style is this: put aside a sum of money each year and do not distribute it to shareholders (or workers, of course) so avoid taxation, then next year, or anyway later, GIVE it to the shareholders as a sort of bonus which is now NOT subject to taxation.

What a business!

Trinidad Petroleum Development

The Directors of this outfit, who are hardly distinguishable from British Controlled Oilfields, are grinning all over and gleefully rubbing their hands, boasting that for the year ending on July 31st, they sold 3,284,005 barrels of crude oil. This was less than last year by 155,190 BUT they get £83,454 more than last year.

Result: by Tuesday, October 19th, Stock Exchange prices had risen another 3d. each to 28/3 for an original FIVE SHILLING share.

Mr. J. Mytton, Secretary of T.P.D. and Managing Director of B.C.O. is really happy in company with a former Jamaica Governor, Sir John Huggins, a co-Director. NETT profits have risen to £773,411, an increase of £56,896 over 1952/53 so giving the lazy louts in London a dividend of 20%—whow!

Don't be at all confused with these figures. Study everyone carefully, ponder over the volume of production coming from ONLY one of the SEVEN fangs from Britain that suck oil from Trinidad. Think over the values being lightly toyed with, don't forget to multiply by FIVE in order to understand the sums in Caribbean dollars; then wipe away the tears and resolve that this wealth, too, MUST remain West Indian.

Caroni

(controlled by Tate and Lyle)

As the news of sugar production restrictions sink home, the London sugar barons received a 12½% dividend on their Stock Holdings for the year ending June 30th, 1954.

Profits spiral once more to record heights of £201,009 that is nearly half a million dollars more than last year, and brothers, those honey-dew dollars roll in AFTER their directors have put aside £291,156 for taxation.

£50,000 more have been hidden away to a General Reserve—now if there is any doubt as to what this means, spare a moment . . .

Mr. G. V. Tate, successor to Lord Lyle announced simultaneously that he was giving to all the loyal shareholders, one NEW fully paid Ordinary Share of 2/- to every original Stockholder who already held a single Stock Unit of 8/-. Multiply this to the thousands and millions that Tate's deal in, and you see where the "Reserves" go each year and TAX-FREE, too!

C. L. C. (L. B.)

3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

The ELEPHANT and *The Man*

A Fable by Jomo Kenyatta

THE president of the African Union in Kenya, one of the leaders of the national movement, Jomo Kenyatta, studied in England, travelled in France and Germany and lived 17 years in Europe. He was dragged before the court by British colonial authorities and imprisoned. In this fable he gives an excellent description of relations between colonial people and their oppressors.

ONCE upon a time an elephant made friends with a man. One day a violent thunderstorm started. The elephant went to his friend who owned a small hut at the fringe of a wood and said to him: "My dear, good man, please allow me to put my trunk into your hut, to protect it from this violent downpour."

When the man saw the situation of the elephant, he said: "My dear elephant, my hut is small, but there is space in it for me and your trunk too. But please put your trunk in very carefully!"

The elephant thanked his friend and said: "You have done me good, and some day I will return this goodness."

But what happened? When the elephant put his trunk into the hut, it was slowly followed by his head and finally he threw the man out into the rain and said: "My dear good friend, your skin is thicker than mine, and as there is not enough space for both of us, you can very well stand in the rain while I protect my delicate skin from the hail-storm."

When the man saw what his friend had done to him, he muttered. The animals from the nearby forest heard him and came to see what had happened. They all stood in a circle and listened to the quarrel between the man and his friend, the elephant. In this upheaval, the lion came along and roared: "Don't you all know that I am the king of the jungle? How dare you disturb the peace of my empire?"

★

When the elephant, one of the high dignitaries of the jungle, heard this, he answered in a calming voice: "Your Majesty, I only had a small discussion with my friend here about the possession of this little hut in which I live." The lion who wanted peace and quiet in his kingdom, answered in a noble voice: "I order my ministers to set up a commission of enquiry which will examine this affair and give a full account of it." Then he turned to the man and said: "You did well in making friendship with my people, especially with the elephant, who is one of my ministers of state. Don't scold anymore, because this hut is not lost to you. Wait for the meeting of the commission of my kingdom, and you will have the chance to state your case. I am sure you will be satisfied with the decision of the commission."

The man was only too happy about the gracious words of the king of the jungle and waited for the enquiry, in the belief that his hut would be returned to him.

The elephant obeyed his master and together with the other ministers formed a commission.

The following people were appointed to sit on the commission: Mr. Rhinoceros, Mr. Buffalo, Mr. Alligator, his honour Mr. Fox as chairman and Mr. Leopard as secretary. When the man saw the list of persons, he protested and asked whether it was not necessary to accept in this commission some members from his side. But he was told that this was impossible, because there was nobody from his side educated enough to understand the complicated laws of the jungle. Besides, there was nothing to be afraid of, because the members of the commission were all very well-known for their impartiality and justice.

★

Because they were masters, ordered by God to take care of the interests of the races who are less well equipped with teeth and claws, he could be sure that they would examine the affair carefully and impartially.

The elephant was called first. He approached with a haughty face, he had cleaned his tusks on a small tree given to him by Mrs. Elephant, and he said in a confident voice: "Gentlemen of the jungle, I don't see any necessity to waste your time in telling you a story which, I think, is well-known to all of you. I considered it always my duty to take care of the interests of my friends and that obviously brought about a misunderstanding between me and my friend here.

"He asked me to protect his hut from being carried away by the storm. As the storm had entered the hut because of an unoccupied room there, I considered it in the interest of my friend, to turn this disused room to economic use, by occupying it myself, a duty which each of you under the same circumstances would have gladly fulfilled."

After the commission had heard Mr. Elephant's final report, Mr. Hyena and other influential people were called and all of them confirmed what Mr. Elephant had said. Then they called the man who now started to give his account of the quarrel. But the commission interrupted abruptly and said: "Dear man, limit yourself to the essential points. We have heard the state of affairs already from several impartial sources. All we want to hear from you is whether the disused room in your hut had been occupied by somebody before the elephant occupied it?"

The man started: "No, but" —then the commission declared it had heard enough statements from both sides and retired for consultation. After an excellent meal at the expense of Mr. Elephant, they declared sentence, called the man and explained to him the following.

★

"According to our opinion, this quarrel arose from a regrettable misunderstanding, the origin of which can be found in the backwardness of your ideas. We believe that Mr. Elephant fulfilled a holy duty, by taking care of your interests. It is clear that it is only for your own good that this room can be used as economically as possible, as you yourself do not yet reach the necessary circumference to fill it, we consider a compromise necessary to satisfy both sides.

"Mr. Elephant will occupy your hut, but we shall give you a permit to select a place where you can build a new hut for yourself. a hut more adequate to your needs, and we shall give you protection."

Living Costs ZOOM !

IN August the Jamaica cost of living index rose by 4.7 points over July. This was the overall figure, but for food the index jumped by 7.9 points. It must be remembered that this is for one month only. The rise for clothing was 5.1 points while other items went up by 3.2 points.

Jamaica's unemployed number 200,000, with meagre wages for those at work.

. . . Did anyone mention a pay rise?

Liberia President Visiting Jamaica

PRESIDENT Tubman of American controlled Liberia is expected to visit Jamaica in November at the invitation of the Queen of Britain. He will first be touring the United States and Haiti.

In the U.S.A. he is the guest of Eisenhower, and in Jamaica his host is Governor Sir Hugh Foot.

Colonial Office must act

A SUCCESSFUL conference on racial discrimination called by the Caribbean Labour Congress was held on Saturday, 9th October, 1954, at Holborn Hall, London.

The conference coincided with the first anniversary of the undemocratic removal of the elected P.P.P. government of British Guiana by the Tory government.

Referring to this, Conference Chairman, Ranji Chandisingh said: "This anniversary pays tribute to the determination of the peoples, not only of the West Indies, but throughout the colonial empires, in the gigantic struggle for national liberation."

Delegates were unanimous in condemning racial discrimination. It sought to divide and use the workers against each other. Only one class benefitted — the capitalist, and delegates promised to use their organisations in the fight to rid Britain of this evil.

It was decided to send a report of the findings of the conference to the Colonial Office. Included is a request for the Colonial Office to sponsor a conference on racial discrimination with delegates representing colonial organisations, and British workers' organisations attending.

Speakers included Mr. J. P. Compton, President of the League of Coloured Peoples, C. Clancey, G. Pefkos, David Larder and Billy Strachan.

The conference was attended by delegates from the League of Coloured Peoples. the Christian Church Council, West Indian Students' Union, Irish Democrat, V.E.M.A. (Cypriot Newspaper) and the trade unions.

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SOVIET ANNIVERSARY

From the depths to prosperity

By E. Cris LeMaitre

THIS month the Soviet Union celebrates the 37th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution. And once more the eyes of the world are focussed on her. What they see will fill some with envy, and others with affection and inspiration.

For from the ashes of Czarist imperialism has arisen the mightiest nation in the world. A nation whose might is not gauged in the strength, numerical or effective, of her army, navy, or air force. But in the ability to mould its people—all of them—into a gigantic multi-national nation enjoying prosperity and progress.

And because of this, evil men in capitalist countries envy her. Because of her successes, power-mad multi-millionaires in America plot against her, appropriate 200 million dollars for sabotage and espionage against her and her socialist allies.

But their crude machinations must fail.

No discrimination

With all these acts of provocation the Soviet Union maintains her stand for peace. She continues improving the economic, social, educational and cultural standards of her people. Her heterogenous people suffer no form of discrimination—no superiority, no inferiority—and live as one.

In this, one of her greatest achievements, the colonial people's admire her. Rebelling against exploitation and frustration, the colonial people draw inspiration from the Russian Revolution.

Janet in prison

from page 1

population and respected by the world as people for whom no sacrifice is too great in this struggle for complete independence.

So today, let us take our thoughts to comrade Jagan, a woman who has proved the equality of her sex with men. A woman who is truly a leader, a woman who must be an example for every other of her sex to emulate.

We salute you comrade Janet Jagan and say that your unlimited sacrifices will not be in vain. The Party stands firm and together we go forward to inevitable victory. May you continue to inspire us in the future as you have done in the past.

And may your future birthdays be spent in a country which has benefited from the one you spent in an imperialist prison.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

AS a special feature to celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of our paper, we are offering to send the next three issues of "Caribbean News" absolutely FREE to anyone, anywhere. All the reader has to do is to fill in the name and address of a friend whom he or she would like introduced to "Caribbean News", and that person will automatically receive by post the next THREE issues without cost or obligation.

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3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

Send the next three issues of "Caribbean News" (FREE Anniversary Offer) to:-
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What future for West Indies?

A fortnightly series of classes on the West Indies has started at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1. They will continue on November 12th, 26th, and Friday, December 10th.

Subjects will include life in the West Indies, economic, cultural, political, and the concluding class on December 10th will be "What future for the West Indies".
All are invited to attend.

Left-wing rise in Barbados

IN OUR little island within a short period 1,200 signatures were collected by the Christian Socialist Party calling for the release of Cheddi Jagan up to the time when it was learned that he had been released.

The C.S.P. has also made protests over the American H-bomb tests in the Pacific and denial of the Party's use of Queen's Park to hold its meetings.

Another organisation—the Caribbean People's Alliance—caters for the island's youth, and both these bodies are gaining favour with the masses and seeking to keep the people in contact with all democratic movements overseas.

The newspapers make continued attacks against these two organisations and are constantly referring to "Caribbean News".

BACKGROUND: This little island of ours is only 21 miles long and 14 miles across with a population of 220,000, and a density of 1,260 per square mile.

It is the most conservative of the West Indian islands and is sometimes called Little England.

Here we have the arch-imperialist stooge of the West Indies—Grantley Adams. He grabbed control of the Barbados Labour Party after attacking the progressive movement started by Dr. Duncan O'Neale.

For years Adams was a foremost enemy of the working class movement. but in 1937 when there was a little disturbance here, Adams, opportunist as he is, proclaimed that he was like Saul turned to Paul, and in so doing grabbed control of the Workers' Union and Labour Party. Since then he has continued to sell out the working class movement and to betray their national aspirations.

But all bad things must come to an end, and since the visit paid to this island by Jagan, Hart, etc., left-wing opinion has begun to gain the ascendency.

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Do it the Lambeth way

CROWNING the applause to a short impassionate speech, Lt.-Col. Marcus Lipton, Member of Parliament for Lambeth (South), came across and with a warm handshake congratulated the Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

Some six or seven score people, 70% West Indians, had gathered at the Lambeth Town Hall on the invitation of the Civic Secretary to discuss policy and aims towards improved race relations. Speaker after speaker thanked the Mayor, Major Herbert White, the chairman for the evening, for the wonderful opportunities his Borough was exploring to the benefit of both English and West Indian residents.

After two interesting, if imperfect film shows, the subject under discussion was opened to the floor. There were many critics from the West Indies, overflowing with a sort of misguided pride. The story of the rotten social and economic conditions naturally was enough to make one ashamed, but Billy Strachan's clear statement on the history and root causes of the existing picture drew worthy applause.

A British resident, Mr. Idris Cox, put forward suggestions for integration of the coloured people in the every-day social life, including cricket matches, and again drew a display of appreciation that was an indication of the feelings of everyone present.

A CHALLENGE TO BUSTAMANTE

THE newly formed People's Freedom Movement of Jamaica has issued the following statement:

In a strongly-worded statement, on September 6th, reported in the "Daily Gleaner" on the following day, Mr. Bustamante castigated:

1. The refusal of the Colonial Office to grant wider Ministerial powers to the elected ministers; and
2. The advertisement for Police Officers in Britain without the knowledge of the Executive Council.

In his statement, Mr. Bustamante said: "It is clear that they are mealy-mouthed when they speak about Self-Government and you must fight them and go to prison if you wish to bring freedom and self-respect to your own country."

The phrase "It is clear" is very important. Apparently until now it was not clear to Mr. Bustamante that the only way to gain our freedom is as he puts it "to fight them and go to prison."

If by using the phrase "It is clear" Mr .Bustamante means he is discarding his policy of supporting the colonial masters and is ready to adopt a policy of fighting for Jamaica's freedom against the wholesale robbery of our country by British and American imperialism, then he can look forward to the support of a united nation in a crusade for our freedom.

Call it off

We believe that Britain is here in Jamaica for financial gain and therefore will not lightly give up her so-called 'Divine Right' to rule and exploit us, and that we must be prepared to fight for our freedom.

Mr. Bustamante had therefore not said anything that is fundamentally new. His statement is important in that it comes from one who has been almost fawning in his desire to co-operate with British .Imperialism and readily agreed to Sir Hugh Foot's proposals for constitutional reform which did not represent any appreciable advance.

If Mr. Bustamante's statement was meant to be taken seriously and is not just a cheap political manoeuvre then he can prove that he is serious by withdrawing his support from the plans now being made to celebrate 300 years of British rule. How can a "champion" of freedom celebrate 300 years of oppression.

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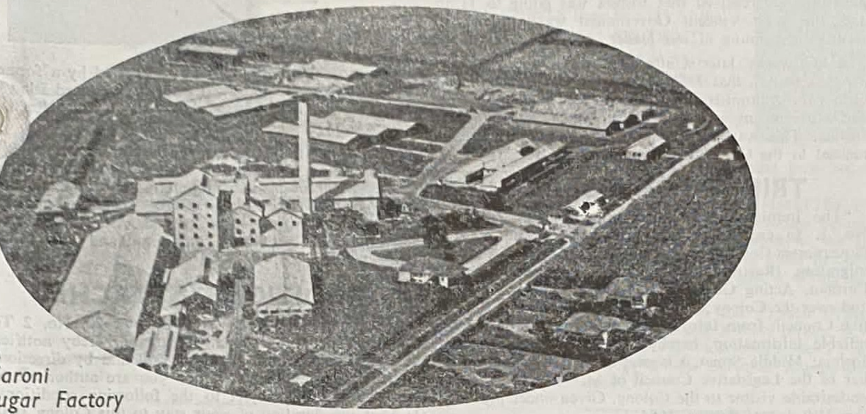

A Caroni Sugar Factory

Yankee Infiltration

FOR half a century seven British oil moguls cornered 89% of Trinidad in their ravenous greed for **oil.**

Here was a corner of a foreign field that was 'forever' England—no competitor dare enter!

Alas, Mr. G. Vernon Tate, M.C., Chairman of CARONI LTD., announced in his Statement for the year ending 30/6/54 that he had sold for a price the oil rights on their sugar estates to a company under the doubtful title, DOMINION OIL, LTD. This company, he admitted, was a subsidiary of the great Yankee octopus Standard Oil of California.

So the pool of oil spills more gloom across this treasure, Trinidad, until . . .

Honduras bitten

ELECTED Representatives from British Honduras are reported in London, to have accepted the sum of £1,250,000 as a "development allocation" from the [illegible]ish Government, subject to Parliamentary rubber-[illegible]ping.

Mr. Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies made the announcement in a Parliamentary reply on November 1st. The 'allocation' will be under the Colonial and Development Welfare Acts, which are the new guise for using British workers' funds to assist private capitalist exploitation of colonial territories.

Ask the workers of British Guiana who benefits from C.D. & W.'s timber mill? Did C.D. & W. offer an interest free loan to the goldfield workers?—or was it Tory Member of Parliament, Robinson. who was assisted to purchase a dredge. that he alone could not afford?

Is this 'allocation' the price that these leaders have had to pay to avoid the Guiana treatment?

What better proof than the announcement twenty-four hours' later on November 2nd, that all Guiana would yet remain denuded of democracy. for the forseeable future? All Ministerial authority that accrued from the Waddington Commission (1951) recommendations, was swept away in one foul swoop.

The Report of the Robertson Commission (1954), ostensibly the premise for Lennox-Boyd's atrocity, has a lesson for every colonial. It should be read throughout Honduras and the only conclusion could be, Take the Guiana Road!

ADAMS' MAN DEFEATED IN BARBADOS ELECTION

From our Barbados Correspondent

AT the bye-election in the parish of St. Lucy, Cameron Tudor, unofficial candidate supported by the Christian People's Socialist Alliance. was successful. winning 2-1 from Grantley Adams' candidate Garner.

The polling figures were: Tudor 1,518, Garner 771, and Greaves 558.

The "Beacon" (Adams paper) has accused Carlton Gill of the C.P.S.A. of clinching the election for Tudor, because of his energetic campaigning during the latter two weeks. It also accused him of being the ex-president of the first "Commie cell" and the usual drivel about spending a lote of "commie coppers".

In what has hitherto been the strangehold of Grantlev Adams. the Alliance speakers are getting and holding large audiences.

Adams is on the decline. Soon the Alliance intends to prepare for bigger things as a Party in contesting a General Election.

Joshua (St. Vincent) wins victory on appeal

THE PRIVY COUNCIL has granted the appeal of Mr. E. T. Joshua of St. Vincent against a conviction of "Public Mischief". Their Lordships found that there had been a misdirection of the Jury by the trial Judge and that in any event there was no evidence to go to the jury on the indictment as framed.

Mr. Joshua was charged before the Supreme Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands in January, 1953 on three counts. The first and third charging sedition and the second a "Public Mischief".

The jury failed to agree on the first count and were discharged from returning a verdict, on the third count he was acquitted while on the second count he was bound over to appear for sentence when called on at any time within two years.

It was against this sentence Mr. Joshua appealed, first to the Windward and Leeward Islands Court of Appeal and then to the Privy Council.

The alleged "Public Mischief" consisted of making a public speech in which he was alleged to have accused the police of preparing armed action against the people in their fight for their rights.

Mr. Ralph Millner who appeared for Mr. Joshua in addition to submitting to the Court the grounds on which the appeal was granted also questioned the very basis of the charge by submitting that there was in fact no such offence known to the law as "Public Mischief" apart from cases of conspiracy where more than one person was involved.

Big Trap

The importance of this can be seen when it is realised that the words "Public Mischief" have no defined meaning and can be used to cover almost anything the authorities disapprove of which they cannot squeeze into the terms of any specific crime.

Their Lordships, however, though admitting the point was of importance and that there was substance in Counsel's submission gave no ruling on the point.

But while it will be left to some other case some time in the future finally to abolish this pernicious "offence" Mr. Joshua has done a public service in driving the first nail into its coffin. Although the appeal was won and it was made clear by the Court that the charge ought never to have been brought their Lordships refused to make any order for costs saying there were no special circumstances for departing from the ordinary rule in criminal cases.

Do you think it Justice when a man is charged and convicted of an offence which probably doesn't exist that it should cost him some £500-0-0 to take it to appeal to be told "you were not guilty—the Judge misdirected the Jury—and anyway there was no evidence to go to the jury?

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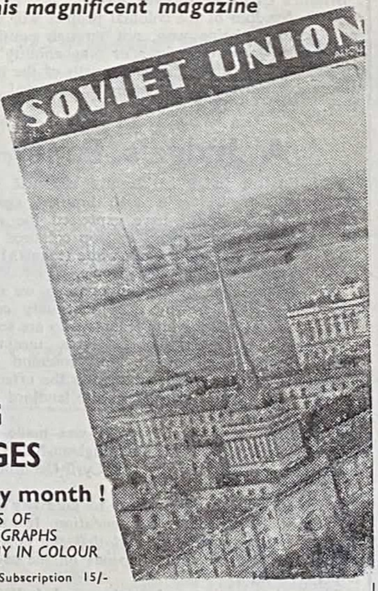

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★ EDITORIAL ★

Commission's Report

LOUD clarion calls for 'democracy' ring glibly from the lips of Britain's representatives. upholding the 'democratic way of life', 'Western values', etc. ad nauseam.

At the same time the Report of the British Guiana Constitutional Commission justifies the vilest crushing of real democracy in Guiana.

Mind you, dictatorship is sanctioned also in the name of 'democracy'.

The Commission had an exercise in how to prevent the people of Guiana from electing the same representatives Britain had deposed. How to thwart the democratic process in Guiana.

But they make some damning admissions (from the Commission's viewpoint):

"... it is the general belief that the P.P.P. could ... still rely on securing a majority if elections were held in the near future on a similar franchise. We share this view ... "

And they can see no way out but recommend a "marking time" period, for how long they cannot say.

The Guianese will, however, be able to decide this by their unshaken stand behind the leaders and policies on which "most of the people were agreed—the demand for self-government, an end to colonialism and improvement of conditions."

All the actions given as examples of the elected Ministers' refusal to 'co-operate', and 'disruptive tactics', actually show quite a different picture—that the P.P.P. Ministers were always on the side of justice and better conditions for their electorate, the masses of poorer Guianese. Which is something un heard of in previous colonial 'governments'.

Indeed. it is clear to see that beneath all the little charges brought against the Ministers of 'misconduct'. 'abuse', etc., the underlying cause for their deposition was that they intended to put into practice what is so often only preached by others—democratic rights and conditions for the people.

We are to assume that constitutional 'advance' is possible only where the local 'leaders' do the bidding of the Colonial Office and as long as they do not oppose foreign exploitation of their people and their country's resources.

If this soothing policy of steady advance and guidance to self-government by stages were true. then Jamaica and Barbados would be the most advanced, being the longest held of Britain's colonies.

In a generous lapse, the Commission is willing to concede full self-government to Guiana without delay. even with the "communist influence in the leadership of the dominant party ... " But it counters that the only thing preventing this is that Guiana does not have rich resources and cannot stand on its feet economically.

This Report (priced 3/-) should be widely read. It will be an education to any colonial. From the Appendix we quote an extract from the P.P.P. paper "Thunder". quoting R. P. Dutt's book "Britain's Crisis of Empire":—

"The freedom of the colonial peoples will be won, and is today being won, not through petitions or prayers or good behaviour or magnanimity of the rulers, but only through the strength of the national liberation movement, through the national revolution."

A Judge's Fancy

AN English judge is recently reported. in the course of trying a case brought against a Jamaican landlord, to have expressed the opinion that action must be taken to stop coloured people buying houses and turning out white tenants. Further. he suggested deporting such people.

Unless Justice be blinded in one eye. we may be forgiven for asking why it is that only coloured landlords turning out white tenants who are so offensive. What about white landlords turning out coloured tenants—a practice most common in this 'free' country. Or, for that matter, is the offence less serious when committed by a white landlord against a white tenant?

Fortunately a redeeming point was made by the Attorney-General, Sir R. Manningham-Buller, when in answer to a question by Mr. Cyril Osborne (Con. M.P. for Louth) he said:—

"I do not therefore propose to take any step to implement the judge's recommendation. It would be deplorable if it were supposed that the application of the law in this country depends on the colour of a person's skin."

The point is that malpractices and bullying by landlords of all colours are to be fought. Such actions by the relatively few coloured landlords in Britain follow the pattern set by capitalist society.

Leading Vincentian Politician Banned Again

from Alma Johnson

Secretary, St. Vincent Federation of Industrial & Agricultural Workers

THE question of banning of West Indians by British West Indian Governments, apparently a basis for their brand of W.I. Federation, still continues with mad fury. The latest one on record is that of our Hon. President.

Joshua applied for 14 days' leave of absence from the Saint Vincent Legislative Council. As soon as the application was received that Joshua was going to Trinidad, the Saint Vincent Government was at work to secure the banning of our leader.

A few weeks' later a statement was made from the people's forum, that Joshua was going to England. Mr. Coutts the Administrator, forthwith informed the Trinidad Government and other W.I. Governments to ban Joshua. This was how the various W.I. Governments reacted to the C.O.C. of Administrator Coutts.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

"The Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance, Ch. 20, No. 2. In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor-in-Council by par. (h) of Section 4 of the Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance, I Maurice Henry Forman, Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago. in Executive Council, from Information which in my opinion is reliable information, hereby deem Ebenezer Theodore Joshua, Middle Street, Kingstown, St. Vincent, a member of the Legislative Council of St. Vincent, to be an undesirable visitor to the Colony. Given under my hand this 24th day of August, 1954.

(Signed) M. Dorman. Acting Governor."

This was done to debar Joshua from getting passage to London via Trinidad. The Administrator also cabled to Savage, the Governor of British Guiana, asking cooperation. and while Joshua was in Trinidad, the Guiana newspapers published that Joshua was banned from Guiana.

Joshua sailed for Trinidad on the 17th of October. One hour before he sailed the Superintendent of Police of St. Vincent, Major Anderson, informed him that he (Joshua) would not be allowed to land in Trinidad. That was the very first indication Joshua had that a ban was placed against him in Trinidad. The most fantastic part of this affair is that Joshua is a resident of Trinidad and Tobago.

PANICKY

On Joshua's arrival at Grenada, the same Government of which he is a part (the Windward Government) sent off large platoons of policemen and soldiers to the "Orion", the vessel in which he was travelling, to tell him (Joshua) that he could not land in St. George's as there was a ban against him.

This act tells us how foolish colonial governors can be. Despite the fact that three years awo Governor Arundell placed a ban against Joshua in Grenada, Betham Beetham, the present Governor, was childish enough to send soldiers and policemen to guard our comrade on the "Orion".

Hon. E. T. JOSHUA
Elected member
St. Vincent
Legislative
Council

Governor Rance. however, remembered Nelson, the Trinidad Guardian Political Correspondent, the Mussons who were recently deemed and imprisoned by a former Colonial Secretary, and Pratt from the Leeward Islands, all of whom filed successful appeals against Rance's deemings.

The Immigration Launch which bore down on the "Orion" called at once for Joshua (note his brother Joseph had accompanied him). It turned out that while Joshua was on the high seas, the Governor made a conditional permit for him to land. After that period he would be a prohibited immigrant and undesirable visitor to Trinidad.

CONDITIONS ATTACHED

"Issued under Section 12 of Chapter 20, No. 2 To Ebenezer Theodore Joshua. You are hereby notified that you are a prohibited immigrant and by directions of his Excellency the Governor you are authorised to enter the Colony subject to the following conditions: (1) That the duration of your stay to this Colony shall not exceed 14 dafs from the date of your entry into the Colony. (2) That you shall not during your stay in this Colony attend or take part in any public meeting or political activity. Dated 20th October, 1954."

Cables telling of Joshua's arrival in Trinidad were received days after he and his brother arrived. This is the manner and methods used by colonial governments in the whole W.I. They harp Federation with one breath, with another there is a concerted plan to keep the true leaders of the people muzzled from expressing opinion.

Round the Merseyside

from our own Correspondent

ARISING from the resuscitation of the Merseyside West Indian Society, a new programme was launched, and we started a vigorous campaign within the Labour Wards against racial discrimination. We have also circularised the Labour Party Wards and special constituencies from which we have had a fairly good response; we have met up till now seven Labour Party ward officials and their members.

We are now busily drafting a memorandum to be submitted to four Party Wards as requested by them, also an Economic and Financial statement on the lines how we believe the Caribbean Island could be developed and hence cessation of West Indian immigration.

We are also about to take the necessary steps to bring about one broad colonial organisation. We have had two joint E.C. meetings with the C.P.D.A., laying the basis for joint co-ordination at all levels.

Our annual and presentation dance was held on the 30/11/54, at the Holioaks Hall, Smithdown Road, Liverpool.

The poor Rich from St. Kitts

by onr FINANCIAL WIZARD

THE British tax-collector has collared £33,996 in the name of Her Majesty's Crown from the proceeds of the ST. KITTS (LONDON) SUGAR FACTORY.

Accounts are annually made up to August 31st.

Sad story? well, the Directors (including the former Governor of British Honduras. Sir Alan Burns) secured more than DOUBLE profits of a year ago—£41,442 Last year the poor devils only had £20,309; anyway they still received a 15% dividend as their share of the spoils.

The associated companies. Antigua Sugar Factory, St. Madeline Sugar Company, Ltd. (Trinidad), Grays Inn (Jamaica) Central Factory, Ltd., will have reaped a similar crop. However, Forward to Federation! soon there must be a West Indian Workers' harvest.

... and TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS

THANKS to the boys at home profits have risen from a net figure of £1.774,652 to £1,851,629 (nearly ten **million** West Indian dollars).

Naturally the dividend is up, too—on the surface it is 20%. the same as last year; but what about the £1,639,452 that the shareholders had given to them a year ago under the heading of "CAPITALISATION"?

I tried to explain this last month with reference to STE MADELINE SUGARE ESTATES of the Moody-Stuart kingdon—it's the same!

Every man who had one share a year ago, as a result of "CAPITALISATION" has two today. Simple, eh! a double dividend or 40%.

Still more plans are afoot for expanding the refinery, so no one need fear that the oil is running out, especially the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union.

Sugar men out

WORKERS on seven sugar estates in Trinidad have demanded that the employers meet them to discuss recognition of their union, the Federation of Sugar Workers and Cane Farmers.

About 3,500 workers went on strike on November 22nd for union recognition. One estate came out on November 15th, the other six started a week later in sympathy. At the time of writing (December 15th) five estates are still out.

PRICE CUT

THE Ministry of Food in Britain have announced (November 19th) that they are cutting the price of sugar purchased under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement for 1955 by 5/- per ton.

For 1954 the price was £41—for this year £40-15-0. Rubbing salt into the wound, we are informed that this "protective" Agreement will now run to the end of 1962.

Another blow to that reported in "Caribbean News" (October) when sugar production was drastically cut to keep profits high. So the sugar colonies suffer more and more as they pay the price of colonialism.

The rub is that lower prices for sugar are taken out of the sugar workers in the end. The bosses are not the ones to take a loss, as their profits keep rising.

HAPPY YOUTH TO MEET IN WARSAW

SINCE its birth on November 10th, 1945, in London, the WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH has successfully carried out its aims for which it has so ardently strived, that is, peace and friendship among all youth of the world, regardless of colour, nationality, religious or political belief.

Under the joint auspices of the W.F.D.Y. and the INTERNATIONAL UNION of STUDENTS four FESTIVALS of YOUTH and STUDENTS for PEACE were held in various countries At these gatherings thousands of young people from over a hundred different countries participated.

From July 31st to August 14th next year the Fifth Festival will be held in Warsaw.

The YOUTH and STUDENTS' COMMITTEE of the C.L.C. which is organising the West Indian delegation, has already begun its preparatory work to this effect. The cost would be about £28, and in order to facilitate and encourage West Indians in Britain, a saving scheme has been inaugurated.

For further details write to the "Youth Organiser, Caribbean Labour Congress, 3 Robert Street, N.W.1."

In the following issues of "Caribbean News", young West Indians will give their personal impressions of preceeding Festivals.

West Indians mix with youth of several nations at the Bucharest Festival, 1953

BOOK WORLD

Nisso

(Foreign Language Pub. House, Moscow, 6/-, from Collets Bookshops)

LUKNITSKY, a Soviet scientist, went on a Tajikistan expedition. He studied the life and traditions of these people who live in the most inaccessible vallies of the Pamir Mountains, and was impressed by their energy and intelligence, though brutalised by poverty.

Soviet power had not yet penetrated this"lost world of high mountains". On his first expedition in 1930, he was captured by the "Bas Machi". These mercenaries of the still powerful feudal Lords, and petty Khanates, had been supported for many years by foreign agents from across the border. His experiences as material, character, and events are taken from **true** life.

This book, I think, will be an inspiration to especially Colonial people for generations to come.

This story is an epic of human courage and self-sacrifice in that noblest of endeavours—the liberation of the so-called backward races of mankind.

The author's actions and characters are of universal significance. He shows the exploitation of backward races, and also shows that this exploitation can be ended.

The girl Nisso is the indomitable spirit of her people. Her mother was killed trying to escape from slavery. She ran about the village naked. At the age of 13, she was sold to the Khan who ruled with the iron rod, "as all colonials will understand".

★

Nisso fled from the Khan to the mountains where she lived on roots and grass. At last she reached the village of Slatang, where she was saved from death at the hands of the mountain peasants by Sho-Pir, the only Russian representative in the Siatang Valley.

Sho-Pir, was an ex-Red Army man whose Russian name was Medvedev. This Russian representative believed in the people, he was sick with the rules and bad conditions of the people imposed by the Khans.

One by one he gathered the people around him, and despite mistakes and disasters, the story is a triumphant demonstration of man's power to control nature, and build for himself a new life for the future. Nisso became the wife of Sho-Pir. The parasitic Khans are no more, and the people of Siatang march forward under the banner of Socialism.

How true and realistic this book will be to any West Indian or Colonial.

Yet, how natural it could be for thousands of people, under socialism to remain in their own land of birth, and develop their resources instead of running away, because of the squalor which is caused by the Khans and Imperialists who rule the Colonial territory.

Dates and Events

I HAVE just read 'HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES' by Sir Alan Burns, G.C.M.G.

Here is a massive volume of recorded statistical material, complete with dates, appendices, and bibliography. Sir Alan put in some very hard work compiling information that was scattered in a thousand publications, works, theses, and White Papers. As a Colonial Governor in the Gold Coast, British Honduras and Nigeria he has doubtlessly had the time and leisure to absorb himself in fascinating research that many others have been deprived of because of their personal status.

From his island pinnacle the author has wholly exposed "how divorced a Colonial Office official is from the minds of the people."

The HISTORY is absolutely devoid of any social content. Under the banner of "objectivity" the St. Kitts events 1896 (the birth place of Sir Alan Burns) and Jamaica, 1865, are recorded with what appears to be international neglect of the main factors giving rise to widespread revolts.

On the one hand one might say that colonial revolts are everyday events and too much treatment would obviously monopolise the HISTORY. To think, however, that **six** words in a sort of diary, chapter 22, is sufficient to record the historic WATER RIOTS of Trinidad, 1902, is certainly outstripping the bounds of "objectivity".

Notwithstanding the shortcomings, we must welcome this comprehensive recording of facts and dates in relation to the West Indian Nation. At 70/-, the Publishers GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN, LTD., have precluded thousands of ordinary people who will need and want to acquire this HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. I recommend the pooling of funds in clubs, groups, or committees, as an escape from the high price.

The fabric remains to be woven across the scaffolding that is set out before us, and I am certain that internationalists and West Indians alike will eagerly look forward to that publication.

Owen MacAnuff of Brosett Road was fined 40/- or 14 days for larceny of one coconut, valued 3d., the property of Errol Flynn, movie actor. — (Jamaica).

LETTER BOX

Dear Editor,

All power to your paper, I read it with great interest each time I receive my copy. I am indeed amazed at the strength of the West Indians in London, and it is a real example to other overseas, even in Montreal.

I have no startling news to report about myself, except that I have a job for which I consider myself grossly underpaid.

PEGGY, Montreal, Canada.

ENGAGED

THE announcement of the engagement of two of our fellow compatriots, Mr. Derrick Walford of Hope Road, St. Andrew, Jamaica, and Miss Sylvia Patricason of Kingston, Jamaica, was followed by a party attended by close friends and relatives in Kilburn, London, on Saturday, November 27th. Toasts were drunk to their health and early marriage. The atmosphere was reminiscent of a Caribbean night and the aroma typically West Indian was in the air. RUM!

Gravediggers strike

ONE thousand municipal workers, including gravediggers, of Georgetown, British Guiana, have gone on strike.

They are protesting against the Georgetown Town Council's refusal to grant a Christmas bonus.

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GUIANA – The Road Backward

by

CHEDDI

JAGAN

★

AFTER nearly a year of pent-up anxieties and expectations, the Report of the Robertson Constitution Commission was finally released on 2nd November, 1954. The recommendations came as no surprise. Actually from the inception of the appointment of the Commission, they were a foregone conclusion.

The whole thing was no more than a farce. The British rulers, of course, in their attempts at deceiving and throwing dust in the eyes of colonial peoples, delight in indulging in such farces, in parading such ever-recurring commissions of enquiry.

Firstly, the Commission completely justified and white-washed the British Government's action in destroying the Constitution and removing my Ministers and myself from office. In its own words: "We are satisfied that the set back to orderly constitutional progress in British Guiana was due not to defects in the Constitution, but to the fact that those in control of the People's Progressive Party proved themselves unscrupulous in their own disruptive and undemocratic ends."

The "disruptive and undemocratic ends" refers needless to say, to the "sinister" extremists, the communists. But while the red-herring of communism has been given as the major reason for the rape of our Constitution, the burden of argument is that the Constitution was lost because of our previous attitude to it. Extracts of our speeches and writings criticising the constitution provide a full documentation.

THEY KNEW THEN

It is true that we were severely critical of the limitation of the Waddington Constitution—its governor—nominated Upper House with delaying powers; its retention of the portfolios of finance, defence, foreign affairs, police, information and justice in the hands of Government officials appointed from London; and finally the veto and reserve powers of the Governor. But it is equally true that our views on the Constitution and for that matter on communism were well known to Whitehall before the election and the assignment of our portfolios in April and May respectively of 1953. the destruction of the Constitution was caused not by our refusal to work it because of our preconceived views. The fact is we were working it. The snag came about because we were working it not according to plans carefully laid down.

The Constitutional structure was not designed to accommodate six P.P.P. Ministers in a policy-making Executive Council of ten. But once having got control of the Executive Council our working of the Constitution could have led and was leading to only one inevitable conclusion—the exposure of the Governor and the limited Constitution. It was really to forestall this exposure that the troops marched in in October, 1953, and not becouse of our 'dis'ruptive and undemocratic ends."

And what of the future? We are, therefore, driven to the conclusion, said the Commission, "that so long as the P.P.P. retains its present leadership and policies there is no way in which any real measure of responsible government can be restored without the certainty that the country will again be subjected to constitutional crisis.

"We have no doubt that British Guiana, with its precarious economy, cannot afford another crisis of the kind that developed in 1953, and we can, therefore see no alternative but to recommend a period of marking time in the advance towards self-government".

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

But it isn't the "present leadership and policies" which was really bothering the Commission. That was there all the time. It was there at the time of the visit of the Waddington Constitution Commission in 1950-1951. The only difference is the assessment of public confidence in the People's Progressive Party.

The Waddington Commission did not have its nose to the ground. Assured that no party system would be fully developed in less than five to ten years, and assured that we would not win a mojority at the General Elections, it dared to give us a "liberal" Constitution with a policy making Executive Council of 6-4 in favour of the elected members. Our phenomenal success at the April, 1953, elections of eighteen out of twenty-four seats clearly upset their time table.

The Robertson Commission, on the other hand, is not to be caught in the same trap. They have "sounded" the people. In this they have no doubt been helped by the advic of many spies and "impartial" observers who have visited our shores since October, 1953.

'LITTLE DOUBT'

A correspondent of the "Times" of London observed that we were "deeply enmeshed" and our "influence has in no way diminished." He added "There is little doubt what the result of another general election would be. The P.P.P. remains the only organised political body in the sugar estates and the villages. The new Party, the National Democratic Party, has made little impact and is almost unknown in many places."

Thus having found that the people's confidence is still 100 per cent. behind the P.P.P., the Commission could come to only two conclusions.

One, the proscription of the Party and the disfranchisement of some of the "extremist" leaders. The other, postponement of the elections and "marking time".

The latter was accepted in preference to the former, for proscription doesn't really destroy. The Indian National Congress for instance was banned, but it finally led the Indian people to independence.

Disfranchisement of the "extremist" leaders, however desirable (from the Commission's viewpoint), was dangerous. There is world public opinion to be reckoned with. It would have meant importing here the fascist method of Dr. Malan of South Africa, whose government after 'naming" individuals as communists, prohibits them from either sitting in Parliament or holding official posts in trade unions.

But why the period of marking time? The Commission realistically but quite unashamedly considered "what the outcome would be of an immediate attempt to restore a measure of power to elected representatives, by which we mean a represntative legislature and a retention of some form of ministerial system."

DILEMMA

In paragraph 211. they said that we would more likely contest rather than boycott any elections; and after such elections, either:

(1) refuse to take our seats; or
(2) with a majority, refuse to elect Ministers and thus be obstructive; or
(3) elect Ministers and again provoke a constitutional crisis.

The Commission no doubt, had in mind the background of the Indian struggle with boycott of elections, resignation of Congress Ministers, etc., but the obvious answer to this is — so what? Isn't that strictly constitutional? Since October, 1953, Governor Savage has been persistently saying that all talk of non-co-operation is stupid. And now the commission comes out with no constitution, no voting, no elections. What is there left to the people? Are they to follow their imperialist masters?

Quite indefinite will be "this period of marking time", this period of stalemate and retrogression.

The Commission lays it down: "We cannot estimate the length of the period which should elapse before the advance towards self-government is resumed. Everything will depend upon the extent to which the people of British Guiana including the leaders of the P.P.P. themselves, can be brought to the realisation that the futile and deliberate disruptive policies for which the P.P.P. at present stand are no basis for the future constitutional progress of their country".

BRITAIN'S HYPOCRISY

The Robertson Commission is an exposure. But the exposure is of Britain's hypocrisy about leading colonial peoples to self-government. Britain's democracy for colonial peoples can have only one meaning—colonials have a right to vote, but they must only vote for those whom their masters designate. Otherwise their right to vote will be suspended—suspended until such time as they change their mind, throw out their militant leaders, and sacrifice their anti-imperialist policy.

★

A view
of the
Lord Mayor's
procession
in London

★

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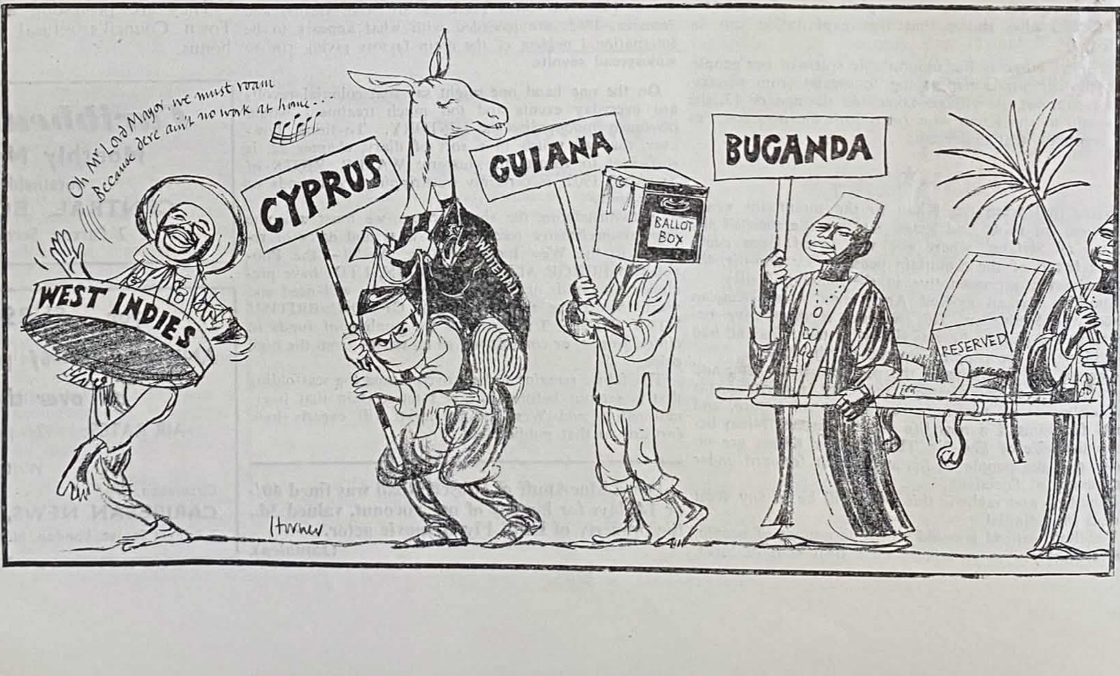
permission
of the
News
Chronicle


Oh Mr Lord Mayor, we must roam
Because dere ain't no work at home...
WEST INDIES
CYPRUS
WHITEHALL
GUIANA
BALLOT BOX
BUGANDA
RESERVED
Horner

BRITISH WEST INDIAN STUDENTS

MANY happy returns to the Executive Committee and members of the West Indian Students' Union. We of the Youth and Students' Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress follow their activities with interest.

Christmas in England, to quote their message "is not celebrated in that lively spirit as is experienced in the West Indies". But, quite rightly, they point out that mass unemployment at home must make Christmas a pretty dreary occasion for thousands.

We join with you in resolving to consider all plans for the betterment of our people in the coming year as we hope you will join with us whenever there is a chace of implementing them.

[By Youth and Students' Committee, C.L.C.]

. . . and French W.I. students complain

MEANWHILE, in Paris the Martinique Students' Association have adopted a concrete and elaborate plan of activities for 1955.

Their four-part programme which includes some 17 points, covers every aspect of colonial students' life in the metropolitan country. Of particular interest to "British" West Indians is their proposal to develop cultural relations with other West Indian students, and to emphasise the solidarity of all colonial peoples in their struggle to obtain those rights embodied in the U.N. Charter.

Provision is made for calling a Congress of all French West Indian and Guianese students in 1955. May 23rd is to be celebrated in honour of those heroes who fell in the struggle of all West Indian peoples against slavery.

Oppose Colonial Policy

THE London Co-operative Party's Annual Conference has given "full support for a resolution proposing that the next Labour Government should initiate an investigation into Colonial conditions by a body of working class representatives.

"The motion called also for a reversal of policy in regard to Central African Federation, a reversal of Tory Government actions in Buganda and British Guiana, an end of military and police campaigns in Kenya and Malaya, and for the right of the people of Cyprus to determine their own form of government."

"Reynolds News", 21/11/54.

Dawn arrest in Trinidad

WE print this letter which arrived late at our office from a Trinidad school-teacher, Mr. Mervyn MacFarlane. We ask readers to bear in mind Sir Winston Churchill's boast that in England no one need fear "the policeman's knock in the wee hours of the morning".

"At 6.45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6th, two members of the Police Force came to my house with a search warrant. They searched for about an hour and a quarter. I had scores of books, papers, pamphlets and magazines, etc., and it took them that long to go through all.

"While they searched they took note of all the progressive books and their publishers and at the same time scattered them widely in what seemed to be an effort to make as great a mess as possible. They found and took away a copy of 'Caribbean Clarion'. Many other homes were searched on the same day and time.

"One other person was brought to the Courts with me, but the Police had no case as they were unaware of the very existence of the books they seized, and furthemore these were not banned. I was fined £20 with the alternative of three months. I entered a guilty plea. I borrowed the money here and there and paid within the two weeks alloted.

"It took more than two months after the raid for a Legislative Council Member to raise a question on the incident. Three months passed before I was sentenced. And, of course, efforts have been made to dislodge me from my job."

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

Press and People

OVER the latter months of 1953 it was fairly clear that British Government policy was leading to an official colour bar in Britain. for from the wishes of millions of ordinary coloured and white people for an official law making the colour bar illegal, the contrary is a sad fact.

Look back and recall the hollow words of John Strachey. who as Minister of Food in 1949 declared that he would soon take action against any reported offenders in restaurant or public house. but his government found it quite unnecessary to legislate . . .

Well, on Friday, November 5th, Mr. Hopkinson. Minister of State for Colonial Affairs. confirmed my suspicion when he stated that his office was considering the possibility of legislation for the control of emigration from the West Indies — in reply to Mr. J. B. Hynd, Labour Member of Parliament for a Sheffield constituency.

Politics & Principles

Fighting for a few lines in the columns of the national press to forestall Hopkinson and so forewarn public opinion, I contacted four leading national papers which offered possibilities of co-operation (?)

All, without exception, pooh-poohed my fears, suggesting that the immorality of such actions would never enter the mind of the worst possible governments in Britain.

One well-known weekly completely discarded my appeals; another Sunday paper operating under a "left" label argued with me until after 2 o'clock in the afternoon on November 5th that it was so morally outrageous, the Government, NO GOVERNMENT. would dare! Another daily, so confused. so beguiled by political intrigue, hesitated with scepticism, and the "DAILY WORKER", the only one, after reasoned discussion provided four or five column inches in their sadly overburdened daily.

On re-opening discussion with the feature writer of the Sunday Special at 8 o'clock in the evening after Parliament's announcement. the wily journalist without the o'd-world charm of crying, 'touché' and trying yet to make amends, argued that possibly this action was approved by the Parliamentary Labour Party and was therefore the wish of the people and therefore incontestable!

This was the price of a prostituted press produced in the interests of the God of Profits.

The 'Good' suffer

I HAVE just read a tale of woe from the directors of the ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY. The London "Times" reported that the shareholders' meeting will take place on December 30th. Christmas will have passed and they will be offered the Annual Report which will show a loss of £11,385 for the year ending August 31st, 1954.

Last year the profits were up £22,733.

So the first victims of the Sugar Cartel called the INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL have fallen.

Knowing a smattering about Company accounts myself, I have no sympathy for the Moody-Stewarts nor the Sir Allan Burns and those who can well fend for themselves. Perhaps if I saw them barefooted in a tattered shirt with an idle cutlass swinging by their side, and staring hungrily across the green canefields, I might shed a tear—but since they are not out there in the sun and contrarily three million West Indians have been sentenced to a life dependent on King Sugar, you can guess what I want to do with the Sugar Kings of London and New York.

Claim right to live on equal terms

The Caribbean Labour Congress has issued the following press statement. published here in full:

From increasing reports of cases of racial discrimination and colour prejudice in the process of seeking employment or accommodation, our Executive Committee have been compelled to issue the following:—

West Indian immigrants are now arriving in Britain at the rate of 1,000 per month; the figure is only equalled by that of the Irish and Cypriots and is more than twice that of Africans.

The total even at the end of 1954 will still ONLY be approximately 0.2% of the total population in Britain.

A sizable proportion of the immigrants have entered Britain with the sole intention of qualifying in an academic or technical profession since there are NO SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES for learning, especially in the West Indies. The remaining immigrants enter Britain in search of employment on the same conditions and rates as are popularly boasted, in order to attain similar living standards.

CLOSE BONDS

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) directs every member, ally and friend to IMMEDIATELY join his appropriate Trade Union or professional association in order to establish the closest bonds with fellow workers and colleagues.

Coloured workers are NOT enemies of the British workers. Coloured workers want higher wages and improved conditions; coloured workers are very ambitious to acquire great skill and contribute to the world of plenty.

When the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) contributed £2-2-0 to the Dockers' appeal of October 21st from our meagre funds, this token sum was an indication of West Indian solidarity with British workers in the common struggle.

British workers in their own interest. in accordance with normal self-respecting principles, must offer the hand of friendship and equality, in order to prevent employers or any other faction from building up a force of competitive labour outside their own ranks which might be a threat to even existing conditions.

The colonial conditions that have led to large-scale emigration from the colonies are no fault of the colonial people. These children of fate are as any other human being who aspire to a better life and undergo much agony in the process.

NOT SYMPATHY

West Indians, coloured people, or any other colonials do not demand sympathy, but claim the absolute right to live on equal terms in a just society based entirely on their will and capacity to contribute their appropriate share.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) have many experienced Trade Unionists within our ranks. and we are fully equipped to discuss the obvious problems that have arisen. We therefore earnestly appeal for the closest co-operation to solve an inevitable situation that summons every degree of honesty and sincerity.

OUTCRY FOR REFORM

ON the heels of the sugar workers strike comes news that Trinidad's legislators have unanimously moved that some measure of constitutional advance should be considered. The motion calls for an investigating committee which would contain all elected members of the present Legislative Council.

According to the 1950 Constitution there are 18 elected members on Trinidad's Legislative Council of whom five are Ministers. It was in 1924, exactly 30 years ago, that elected members were first allowed on a Trinidad Legislative body; whether it will take some 30 years more for elected members to have effective political power is a debateable question.

Among the points raised by the nine members who first saw the Major General the Governor Sir Hubert Rance Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George. God save him, were requests for a Prime Minister, a fully elected House and an Executive Council drawn from a responsible to the House.

Alternative policy for Jamaican voters

From our Jamaican Reporter

JAMAICA is now in the throes of a great shake-up. For the first time in years an effective challenge is being posed to the old political and union interests whose bankrupt policy in the face of mass unemployment and political disabilities is becoming more tragically patent.

Thus in the political field, the People's National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party, old stagers both, now see the rise of the People's Freedom Movement In union affairs, the Bustamente Industrial Trade Union and the National Workers' Union face a challenge in the Sugar and Industrial Workers' Union, and the Factory and General Workers' Union.

This month has been chockful of activity by the new mass movements.

At Bambury, in Westmoreland, hundreds enrolled in a newly formed S.A.W.U. branch; at Paul Island S.A.W.U. speakers were accorded a tumultuous welcome by crowds who jam-packed the square. At Little London another new branch was formed. At Sav-La-Mar 40 workers valunteered to aid the offices of a F.G.W.U. branch.

Candidates

In the political field the People's Freedom Movement has gone on record as rejecting those candidates already named in House of Representative elections Following this salutary step, at a mass conference held at Windsor, in St. Elisabeth and attended by delegates from over twenty districts, Clifford Gordon, vice-president of the S.A.W.U., was named as P.F.M. candidate for the constituency.

In St. Elisabeth and in Western Hanover, where Lascelles Murray is the P.F.M. candidate, Richard Hart has joined Rolly Simms and Ferdinand Smith in spearheading the election campaign. In addition to these two official candidate, P.F.M. has also indicated its support of an Independent, Mr. R. O. Gordon of Western St. Thomas.

Elections are ot be held on January 12th.

SOLIDARITY

THE Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has collected and sent £15 to help the People's Freedom Movement contest the elections in Jamaica.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that the Colonial Secretary will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

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ADDRESS ....

....

West Indians Celebrated 2nd. Anniversary

"CARIBBEAN News" presented a Kaleidoscope of Arts, Music, and Handicraft on Friday, November 19th, 1954, at 3, Robert Street, N.W.1

It was a grand entertainment throughout. But the greatest moments were a study from Chopin. rendered by Margaret Rickards, and a solo for the violin, given by Billy Strachan's 11 years' old son.

Carlton Bayley drew prolonged applause for his new calypso — Tribute to the P.P.P. of Guiana.

The recital of Martin Carter's 'Poems of Resistance' by Peter Blackman rounded off the evening of a happy and well-attended gathering.

R. Chandisingh, Editor, told Anniversary Meeting the story behind Caribbean News

> I hope that a good time was had by all who went on Friday night to a West Indian entertainment (including calypsos by The Mighty Terror) held in London to celebrate the second anniversary of the "Caribbean News". — Tom Driberg, "Reynolds News", 21/11/54.

Breaking New Ground

TALKING POINTS ON SPORT
by Trevor Carter

IN the next few years the West Indies will have a busy spell of international cricket. Pakistan the new entrant to International cricket is supposed to be at home to a West Indian team in 1956, however, no official comment has yet been given Tours arranged by the West Indian cricket board of control are as follows:—

1955—Australia in the West Indies.
1955-56—West Indies in New Zealand.
1957—West Indies in England.
1957-58—Pakistan in the West Indies.

This will be the first time that an Australian team has ever visited the West Indies. It will also be the first direct visit of a West Indian team to New Zealand and Pakistan.

BRIGHT BATTING

Everton Weeks, heavy scoring Barbados born batsman has recently returned to the West Indies. Weeks is under contract by the Bermudez Biscuit Co. of Trinidad to coach young cricketers in the West Indies. It should be looked forward to with great expectations of success in this venture, because Weeks, who without doubt has learnt the hard way, would surely eliminate some of the antiquated text-book coaching.

WIN IN U.S.

Hector Constance of Trinidad gained his third successive victory in America by outpointing Ralph Jones. New York middleweight, over ten rounds at Madison Square Garden.

SOCCER VISIT

Indeed West Indians would be glad to learn that at last the various West Indian Governments will assist in financing the English Soccer Team's tour next year to the West Indies.

In Trinidad it was announced by official sources that an old debt which was owed to the Trinidad Government by the Amateur Football Association will be wiped out.

Mention Caribbean News to advertisers!

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February ★ 1955

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Watch for Caribbean News round-up of the tour in our next issue

Big Business is backing new horse

KINGSTON, Jamaica.

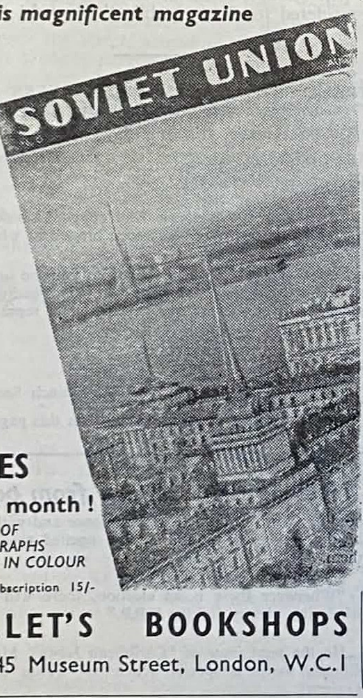
THE big imperialists are fast deserting Alexander Bustamante and his Jamaica Labour Party as all the political signs show impending defeats in the General Elections. (This bulletin was sent before the Elections on January 12.)

The Bustamante Industrial Trade Union has found it necessary to call strikes on the Jamaica Match Factory and after three weeks' stoppage, the workers went back with a fraction of their demands.

The Sugar Manufacturers' Association has rebuffed his Union's request for negotiations on the coming crop.

In a recent P.N.P. publication, devoted entirely to praising Manley, almost every leading firm took advertising space in this book. One whole page was taken by R. Hanna & Sons as "an expression of our appreciation

continued on page 4



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Jamaican Voters Sweep Busta out

But Manley no better

AFTER a period of ten years, 'chief' Busta has been ousted from his job as 'Chief Minister' of Her Majesty's Jamaican Government. His cousin and rival, Norman Manley, Q.C., now takes his place by virtue of winning a majority of 18 out of 32 seats in the House of Representatives. Bustamante's J.L.P. won the other 14 seats.

The result was no surprise to those who were watching the situation, for Busta was more and more exposing himself for what he is—a firm supporter of imperialism — a 'loyal Kikuyu'.

Manley is expected to be no better insofar as the people's conditions are concerned, as his party, the P.N.P., also relies on the benevolence of imperialism. The P.N.P. cannot be compared with the militant P.P.P. of British Guiana. And since expelling the left-wing of the party, the policies of the right-wing have gained more and more as reflected in their electoral programme put out shortly before elections.

Although this programme includes some reforms such as the 45-hour week, annual leave with pay, etc., it is very vague on other main issues. It says in effect that workers must be prepared to accept low wages so as to attract new industries.

Mr. Manley immediately rushed off to New York and got the services of a member of the Cadbury family (big business) to start attracting foreign capital.

As our Jamaican correspondent reports, this victory for the P.N.P. is essentially the result of disgust with Bustamante. And now Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has a go.

[In the next issue, "Caribbean News" will give readers a thorough first hand analysis of the elections.]

New Spirit in Guiana

"THE spirit of the Guianese people is higher now than at the time of the withdrawal of the Constitution." This was the view expressed by Mr. Ashton Chase. former Minister of Labour in the P.P.P. Government, when he spoke to the Executive Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress in London on January 7th.

The Robertson Commission's Report, he thought, was a clever attempt to split the P.P.P. on the basis of ideology and race. It sought to divide the party into who are socialists and who are communists, with personal references.

"But we don't intend to back pedal. We'll go forward no matter what ideologies there are, on the basis of unity."

Mr. Chase drew attention to the belief that the P..PP. moved too fast in office. But the people pushed the movement forward. he said. No leadership could have held back, because the leaders stood by the people.

A very moving note was struck when Mr. Chase described how Guianese went about with a new feeling,

(continued on page 2)

Ferdinand Smith, President of the Jamaica Federation of Trades Unions, was interviewed by the Editor on the Jamaican Elections.
See report on page 5.

Strike action wins in Trinidad

OVER3,500 sugar workers scored a resounding victory over the Sugar Manufacturers' Federation of Trinidad in the 7-week Trinidad sugar strike which commenced on November 2nd.

The managements of three Tate & Lyle estates caved in on December 13th and agreed to negotiate with the Federation of Canefarmers and Sugar Workers about full recognition for the workers' Federation, after which 1,400 workers returned to work. On December 21st, the Tate & Lyle group granted full recognition to the Union.

Negotiations for full recognition on the other estates commenced on Tuesday, December 28th. The Employers' Federation had proposed recognition for a scab union. This the workers rejected.

Meanwhile, Port of Spain suffered temporary break downs because of a strike of 250 electricity distribution workers at the Port of Spain Corporation Electricity Board. The workers struck for back pay owed them since 1952, which they have now won.

They were promised back pay from January 1954 on December 18th. When this money was not paid they struck on the 20th. The men adopted the slogan 'No Back-pay, NO Lights'.

Governor Hubert Rance declared a state of emergency in Port of Spain at 8 p.m. on December 22nd. The Governor's action came after the striking electricity distribution workers unanimously rejected the Board's terms to return to work at their meeting in Woodford Square.

★ EDITORIAL ★

W.I. Immigration

NEARLY every day when we look at the newspapers in Britain we can see articles, news items and editorials about the West Indian immigrants.

Some of these reports are factual and correct, others are true only in parts, while in many cases they are used for veiled attacks against West Indians, building up fear and prejudice in the British people for West Indians.

It is undoubtedly true that the insecurity felt by the British people over problems of housing and jobs in the future, inflamed by the Press by scare stories of West Indian immigration, is leading to increased prejudice.

In face of this, West Indians in Britain, both collectively in the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and as individuals, have a big job and duty to their country to explain our point of view to the British people.

We take the view that it is the British imperialist government which is responsible for our conditions of life at home.

This is so because the British Government sits at the top of our country controlling our political life telling us what we should or should not do. Witness the case of Guiana when for the first time a really people's government was elected.

We are not fooled by the setting up in some of our territories of individuals called 'Premiers' or 'Chief Ministers'. They are only allowed to continue because they do not effectively oppose the imperialist exploitation of our people and wealth by big companies which draw off our bauxite, oil, sugar, rum, and other products.

Some newspapers and people have been calling for 'development' of the West Indies to provide employment and better standards at home, to prevent our people coming to Britain.

Certainly this is what West Indians want. To be able to stay at home in our warm climate and enrich our land and lives.

The reason they leave home is because these strivings are stifled by the imperialist dominated colonial economy.

Yes, development is what we want. But these newspapers conceive of 'development' while still holding us as colonies, as sources of cheap raw materials, cheap labour, and as markets for industrial goods.

In other words, they want to draw off pints and pints of our blood and when we look emaciated inject back a few drops into our system to 'develop' us.

That is the reason put very simply why imperialist 'development' cannot work to our benefit.

The only basic solution to our problems is to end this exploitation of the colonial system and set up an independent federated West Indies.

However, while we remain subject to the British imperialists we have every right to be in Britain and to expect equality of opportunity. But this entails certain obligations on our part, and foremost among these is that as workers we MUST be members of our trade unions and play our part in unity with our British brothers as good trade unionists.

In this way we show fellow workers that we are not here to undercut them or do them out of a job.

This is our strongest point, if we are seen to be good trade unionists, and we must use it to the full to break down the prejudices which arise through fear that the coloured worker is a competitor.

A question uppermost in the mind of the British worker is: What will happen in the case of mass unemployment?

Well the answer is that the hundred thousand coloured workers (0.2 per cent. of the population) would not be nearly as much a threat as the mass of unorganised, non-trade unionists British workers themselves.

The solution is unity of black and white workers in the fight against the system which produces unemployment—capitalism, and unity to protect their conditions against the common enemy—the bosses.

Federation

FOR many years now the need for unity of the West Indian people through Federation has been expressed through democratic organisations of the people, such as the Caribbean Labour Congress.

And for so many years the people's will has been thwarted. But eventually Whitehall put forward in the Rance Report proposals for a glorified-crown-colony federation. This they hope to carry through some time next year.

And to give our readers the full story, the Secretary of the C.L.C. (London Branch) is writing a series of three articles on Federation beginning with this issue.

British oil workers join hands with colonial workers in freedom struggle

REPORT OF MEETING OF 1/819 (Oil Workers) Branch, TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION held on TUESDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 1954.—LONDON.

SUBJECT: "ARE COLOURED WORKERS A DANGER TO TRADE UNIONS?"

ATTENDANCE: Stewards and members from Shell Mex, Regent Oil Co., Vacuum Oil Co., Esso Petroleum, Fina Petroleum and repair centres, with visitors from Stockwell L.T.E. 'Bus Garage, and the President of the Caribbean Labour Congress.

Mr. R. CHANDISINGH, President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, stated that there had been many misleading reports in the daily Press. There had been some 25,000 coloured workers in this country during the war, serving in the forces, etc., and that this number was reaching 100,000.

They did not willingly stay in this country as there were many abvious disadvantages in so doing. They were compelled to come to this country owing to mass unemployment in the Colonies. In Jamaica, one person in three were unemployed. Whilst most basic commodities were as dear as in Britain, and in some instances dearer, many were existing on a daily budget of 5d. per head.

On the other hand there existed great commercial wealth, as for example Jamaica supplied 90% of the world's stock of Bauxite and received only 1/- per ton royalties, as against the world market price of £3 per ton. There were also great supplies of sugar, gold and oil.

In Trinidad seven British companies last year made over £10,000,000 profit. There was a Trade movement which had grown since the war years, but this had not been handled properly by our T.U.C. who had aided splitting tactics, and the World Federation of Trade Unions was not on a proper basis.

BUSMEN'S CASE

STOCKWELL 'BUS GARAGE representatives stated that they sympathised with the case put forward for the coloured workers, and that there had been a number of lies published in the Daily Press about the attitude of the Stockwell 'Busmen.

There had NEVER been a threat to strike against employment of coloured workers, and no colour bar had been exercised. The Stockwell 'Bus Branch dispute with the L.T.E. was over the issue of consultation first.

They insisted that as on every other question of employment, the Union should be consulted first, and that the L.T.E. has broken the agreement on this matter of procedure. The Stockwell 'Bus Branch had attempted to persuade the Press to make corrections of reports without success.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION & REPLY

Points ranging from "Could coloured workers be used to break a strike?" "How do coloured workers manage to buy houses in this country?" and "How could we as Trade Unionists help the coloured workers?" were dealt with as follows:

In a strike with the millions of Trade Unionists in this country, the 100,000 coloured people, which included children, could hardly represent a danger, especially as many of them were in a Trade Union themselves. There was probably a greater danger from the scores of thousands of Slav so-called refugees brought into this country for political motives.

It was necessary to insist that coloured workers join a Trade Union, and for it to be understood that it was in the interests of both White and Coloured workers to work side by side.

Whilst the West Indies remain as part of the British Commonwealth, and whilst these colonial peoples were refused independence, they were entitld to the same rights as any other member of the Commonwealth.

Such questions as that of buying houses existed only in special cases, and was not a colour question. Demands should be made to the Government to permit the people of the West Indies to be employed in their own country by self-Government and exploitation of the wealth of the Colonies for the benefit of the coloured peoples.

The meeting then AGREED to the following resolution:—

"That this meeting convened by the 1/819 Branch of the T. & G.W.U. recognises the common struggle of the British working class and the Colonial workers coming into this country, and calls for unity in the fight for freedom of all Colonial peoples."

LETTER BOX

"Caribbean News":

The New York Public Library is one of the world's great reference libraries. In maintaining and developing its collections, the Library depends on the generosity of authors, publishers, institutions, and individual donors. Your consideration of the following request will be greatly appreciated.

Please send a sample copy.

(Signed) J. W. Henderson,
Chief, Acquisition Branch, preparation Division, New York Public Library.

The Editor,

As a reader, I have been carefully studying the news and articles in the "Caribbean News", and to my opinion it is one of the best periodicals at the present earnestly championing the cause of the "slow progressive people", applying the phrase of capitalism.

I always obtain my copy every month from Collett's Bookshop. I think other West Africans do the same. I am suggesting that it would be for the interest of the "Caribbean News" to increase its obligation to the colonies in West Africa.

This article is about the recent development in Nigeria, and if it pleases the editor to use it, he could do so without any obligation or payment. It is my contribution towards a cause for which we are fighting.

(Signed) N. A. Ologbosere.

[Mr. Ologbosere's article on Nigeria is being considered for future publication.—Ed.]

TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION,
General Secretary: Arthur Deakin, C.H., C.B.E.
1/819 (W. London Oil) Branch.

15th December, 1954.

The Editor,

Enclosed herewith please find copy of condensed report of the meeting of the above branch at which your Mr. Chandisingh spoke.

I have been directed to convey to you the unanimous vote of thanks that was passed at this meeting, on the splendid statement put forward by your representative.

With very best wishes,
Yours fraternally,
(Signed) A. E. GILES,
1/819 Branch Secretary.

[See above mentioned report on this page.]

New Spirit

from page 1

holding their heads high in confidence and with a spirit of dignity—since the P.P.P. had opened new vistas to them.

"Whenever there is an election, there will be overwhelming victory for the P.P.P."

[In the next issue of "Caribbean News", Mr. Ashton Chuase writes a special article on Trade Unions in Guiana.]

BOOK WORLD

The Emigrants

By George Lamming (Michael Joseph, 15/-).

THE author of this book was born in Barbados, and before he came to England in 1950 was teaching French and English in a Trinidad Boarding school.

After his arrival in England he worked for some months in a variety of London factories, until in 1951 he began a weekly broadcast of book and film reviews for the B.B.C.'s Overseas service. His poems have also been broadcast. One other published work by him "In the Castle of My Skin" deals with life in Barbados.

George Lamming is, therefore, a Barbadian. But in "The Emigrants" there are signs that he is aware of the West Indies as a whole, and should indeed, be called a "West Indian".

The first part of his book is a powerfully written account of a voyage to England from the West Indies and his characters could be any of the West Indians who have recently arrived in England.

★

On the way over the travellers get together in small groups and talk of their life at home, and why they are leaving.

Some are made uneasy by a warning from one among them, who had served in the R.A.F., that England was not a land flowing with milk and honey and that a welcome would not await them — that it was hard to find a place to live and get a job. Others put their hopes on learning a trade, being qualified and some were just optimistic.

By the end of the voyage, they were bound together in the belief that whatever island they hailed from, that their interests were identical, and the realisation that primarily they are West Indians and that a real bond is established between them. The ultimate tragic disillusionment which awaits the travellers, is unhappily an experience known to too many.

Josephine Florent

A Guide to the Law

UNDER the British system, anything is supposed to be lawful which is not expressly forbidden. But do you know what these 'forbidden' things are which you are likely to incur by walking down the street, attending a meeting, taking part in a poster parade, running a lottery, selling literature from door to door, or a host of other things you may meet in the course of your everyday life?

Well, these questions are answered admirably in a little booklet called **"Handbook of Citizens' Rights"** published by the National Council for Civil Liberties at the low price of 2/6d.

Described as "a guide to the law for the man in the street", this book sets out very simply to tell you or me just what we are legally entitled to do in pocketing. collecting money for charity, leaving or entering the country, in conducting meetings, processions, etc. It tells us what our rights are if arrested, on the limitations of the police to search us or our homes and lots of other matters of everyday importance.

★

We are told for example in the case of "eviction" that "If a landlord turns out his tenant or locks him out, the police have no right to intervene unless there is a threat of violence or other reason to anticipate a breach of the peace." And usually the police do not interfere, but "nevertheless, they are sometimes persuaded to look into the matter and take one side or the other . . . and the N.C.C.L. has had evidence of one or two cases where the police have, unfortunately, tended to take sides against coloured tenants."

No one should be without this excellent little book which can be bought at bookshops or direct from the N.C.C.L., 46, Westbourne Grove, London, W.2.

'The youngest musicians in the world' — Mr. Christian

THE YOUNGEST GROUP OF LITERATE MUSICIANS OF ALL TIME — this is the claim made by Mr. L. M. Christian of Dominica for his five children, ranging in ages from 4 to 9 years.

Mr. Christian himself is an excellent guitarist and he has taught all his kids even before they could read or spell, to find the keys of the musical instrument.

As if in anticipation, all the children are named after famous musicians. PEGANINI, the eldest girl (9 years) plays the mandolin. HANDEL, the 8-year old boy, plays the flute. Then PURCEL, at 7 years, is a talented violinist. PALESTRINA, whose picture is reproduced below is the pianist of the family, and she's just 5 years.

Palestrina Christian, the pianist of the family, and only 5 years old.

The youngest child, VERDI, a girl of 4, already knows many musical characters.

Press reports rate the family very highly.

The "Antigua Star" says: "There is no question that this group of musicians has shown great proficiency in the standards they have reached for which both they and their parents merit the highest commendation."

And the "Dominica Chronicle" has this to say: ' . . . the thoughts of everyone present were centred on this talented family and foresee a brilliant future for them, especially if the necessary help is forthcoming."

Brilliant future

Yes, a brilliant future awaits these children, but there is a limit to what can be done in the small island of Dominica, where opportunities for development are lacking, a sad commentary on the British imperialist domination of the West Indies.

The Christian family needs financial assistance to continue the further education of the children, to develop their talents fully.

They have already made a start to help themselves to raise money for a fund for the children's musical education by giving concerts in Dominica and neighbouring islands. But the small populations and attendances at these concerts make this a difficult proposition.

Sponsored Tour

Mr. Christian's keenest ambition is for his musical family to be sponsored on a tour of Britain, giving concerts for the children's education.

Apart from claiming to be the youngest literate musicians, Mr. Christian claims to have the YOUNGEST LITERATE PIANISTS (5 years) IN THE WORLD. Let the world prove or disprove it."

He tells us in a letter: "We are applying to your society or through your society for SPONSORSHIP to exhibit the TRUTH and TALENT possessed by the children. We have no cash for travelling purposes, but if we are sponsored right through our shows can certainly refund the expenses incurred by us."

Here is certainly a challege that should be accepted for a good cause.

MORE MONEY . . . FOR MINISTERS

From our TRINIDAD Reporter

AT the opening of the present session of the Legislative Council, the Government followed the usual procedure of not completing the budget debate but of taking two other motions before it. In the course of this session, which is only a little over a month old, the Government increased the salaries of the Ministers and Members to new heights. A Minister will now receive $1,300 per month while members will receive $540 per month.

Delayed action

The Government brought a motion to give $2½ million to the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund and $2½ million to the Rehabilitation Fund for the use of the Sugar manufacturers only. The Manufacturers have taken 5.2 million from the Fund, leaving only about ¼ million despite the fact that this fund is intended for both manufacturers and canefarmers. When it appeared possible that the Government could be defeated, Ministers were alleged to have canvassed members, and in the long run Hon. Victor Bryan, who introduced the Government motion, threatened that the Government would, if defeated, report their defeat to the Governor for his action. This was a veiled threat of dissolution for which the so-called opposition fell.

The Government had its way by a 18—7 majority and then proceeded to second a private member's Bill calling for the establishment of a Constitution Reform Committee of the entire Council (nominated and elected) to consider constitution reform. None of the specific proposals made by nine elected members in a recent interview with the Governor was mentioned. The Committee is to sit and report as all Government Committees, at their leisure, without reference to time, i.e., September 1955 General Elections. Meanwhile the "Evening News" of Wednesday, 3rd, states that only the W.I.I.P. are likely to oppose this sell-out.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that the Colonial Secretary will understand.

- ★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.
- ★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.
- ★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.
- ★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

1 wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

FEDERATION for 1956?

By Billy Strachan

WHEN the Trinidad legislature approved the Whitehall plans for FEDERATION on December 10th., 1954, **GO AHEAD!** flashed in green lights in the Colonial Office in London.

Jamaica's Legislature had already approved the schemes on July 22nd of this year, St. Lucia in October, Dominica in November, St. Vincent and Grenada during 1953, and Barbados Legislature were already on record from June 1954.

FEDERATION sprung from the people, who mainly of African slave origin and Indian indentured labour, throughout the British occupied Caribbean were longing for allies in their isolated struggles for a mere existence. How many thousands have fled to solve their problems in vain, first in Venezuela as long ago as 1825, next in Panama, 1865, then1901; Cuba later; and the United States after World War I? Today it is birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester!

The communities abroad have all been conducive to common nationhood, London being a worthy illustration.

A Nation Robbed

The history of how the Imperial British Government robbed our desires and dressed them anew has already been written, even if not in full. Griffiths, Colonial Secretary following Creech-Jones in the days of the Labour Government, succeeded with social democratic sunning, where no self-confessed Tory could have dared.

Look back to whom they set to preside at our Closer Association Conference in Jamaica, 1947; Rance, demon of the people, Governor of Trinidad, played a creditable part on behalf of his Imperial masters. Then he sat back, to see his drafts rubber-stamped in London, April, 1953. The minor minnions could only move at their masters' wish. These careers only survive on the strength of British armed troops snuggled in the mountains of Jamaica, sunning on the mud-flats of Guiana, with battleship and cruiser traditionally transgressing our Spanish Main.

1956 will see the Federal Constitution of a British super-crown-colony parcelled and partly castrated, sprawled across the Caribbean. Bans on travel, Bans on reading, Bans on association, the hallmark of a colonial suppressed people!

Tentatively, the capital is proposed for St. George's GRENADA; quite unrealistic but only to cool the stifled jealousies of all the puppets, Gomes, Grantley Adams, Bustamante and Manley, who vie unceasingly to prove their loyalty to the British Buckra.

Fig-leaf Constitution

A Governor-General will preside; the principal instrument of policy shall be a Council of State with Eight Elected Members 'assisted' by **three** Officials employed to the British Crown and **three** Senators appointed by the Governor-General in Council.

The wholly Nominated Senate will remain with 19, pending the coercion of Guiana and Honduras with TWO each. The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will number 45, excluding Guiana and Honduras, made up thus:

Barbados	5	Trinidad and Tobago	10
Jamaica	17	Grenada	2
Antigua	2	St. Vincent	2
St. Kitts	2	St. Lucia	2
Montserrat	1	Dominica	2

Here is the skeleton.

Jamaica's legislature wanted some trifling ammendments to favour Peter for the brother Paul, Barbados Legislature slightly better found fault with the Capital situation, favouring Bridgetown but finally lined up to the Adams cammonds after a somewhat spirited debate. Trinidad's mixed House of Nominated and Elected members also gave quite a display of shadow boxing, while workers struck on the sugar estates for recognition and the electricity industry stood still for want of wages! In turn, they too fell in with two footling privisos:

(a) That the location for a capital be decided by the Federal Government.

(b) That a conference on immigration be called.

Onward!

But what of the WEST INDIANS? that is the people who love our land, have nourished it, sweated and shed blood in it. They who HATE the enemies who tramp with military might across the green fields, fire guided missiles from St. Lucia and Turks Islands or breed the germs to kill mankind between the American mainland and ourselves.

Their voice is clear. THEIR WISH IS SACRED. The people want Freedom, the people want BREAD. the people want Education, want the right and yet will win the right to self-determination.

To this end there are three priorities:

(a) The will to win,
(b) The ability to govern,
(c) The wherewithal to pay our way.

The first TWO are self-evident and require no comment; the last, used like the sword of Damocles hung poised above the heads of puny men who feared their brothers and thus themselves. They who fly to London, to and fro at our expense to do their master's bidding. Our answer is a simple one and will be dealt with next month under the title "OUR CARIBBEAN JEWELS".

No criticism for the 'chief'

BUSTA again in the recent Railway and General Post Office strikes must be compared with some of the charges made against Cheddi Jagan by the Imperialists.

Speaking to the railway strikers on December 5th, Mr. Bustamante gave the men an assurance that the regrading would be made retroactively from April this year (1954)—which would be decided by the Executive Council on Tuesday, 7th.

In other words, Busta was making a promise which he was incapable of giving, as the House was in recess. He was therefore committing the new House and Executive to be formed after elections to a policy which he (Busta) had decided on beforehand.

This is the very type of accusation the imperialists would like to make against Cheddi Jagan of British Guiana.

In the strike of subordinate employees at the G.P.O. in Kingston, Busta went down and dictatorially issued an ultimatum to the workers who were members of the National Workers' Union, to return to work and later on had his ultimatum issued by the Executive Council—and, of course, Bustmante is life President of the B.I.T.U.—but there is not one word of criticism.

LABOUR PARTY POLICY ON COLONIES . . .

A Mist of Words

says Yussuf Hosein

TWENTY years ago the "Statement of Policy on Colonial Affairs" presented at the 1954 Labour Party Conference, would have been considered a notable advance by colonials. Today, were the subject less serious, we would be inclined to yawn at these all too familiar promises.

Allowing that a policy statement cannot be too precise, the serious colonial situation surely calls for a more definite indication of how, and when, this policy is to become effective. Neither are we reassured by the fact that so much in the statement is at variance with the actual behaviour of the Labour Party both in and out of office.

The Statement tells us "as soon as development of each territory makes it practicable" arrangements for the transfer of power would be made between the Government and responsible leaders of each territory. That sounds fine, but it fails to explain how this development is to be measured, and what is the target set us. At a recent meeting, despite several questions, I could not get Mr. James Griffiths, the ex-Labour Colonial Secretary, to explain what is the test for self-government.

COLONIAL POVERTY

On poverty and backwardness, the statement says "these conditions spring primarily from natural sources, particularly in the tropics". What makes the tropics a special place for bad conditions? Since when od these conditions spring from natural sources? Such conditions obtained in Britain less than 50 years ago. To the founders of the Labour Party, poverty and backwardness were the products of capitalism, and not inherent in a people or an area.

Most observers agree that the chief cause of colonial poverty is that very little of the wealth produced remains behind. It is heartening to read therefore that "steps should be taken by taxation and other measures to ensure that more of the wealth of the colonies is retained in the territories for the benefit of their inhabtiants". But steps **must** be taken, not should. The Labour Party must state clearly that the rate of exploitation and profit extraction will be severely limited.

THEIR RECORD

What is clearest in the mist of words is that the practice of the Labour Party has been contrary to the policy statement. Here are some examples.

The Labour Party avows its pride in the part played by the Malayan Trade Unions in constitutional advancement and inter-racial co-operation, and will help to encourage them. Yet the war in Malaya resulted from the outlawing of the chief trade unions in Malaya. Are the trade unions good only when they support employers and remain docile when living standards are pushed down?

Take another case. A government was elected in British Guiana, and when it attempted to put its election programme into effect—a programme not nearly as far-reaching as Labour's 1945—it was thrown out, the constitution torn up, and the Guianese disenfranchised indefinitely. What did the Labour opposition do? They sided with the Tory Colonial Secretary, and James Griffiths, the ex-Labour Colonial Secretary, speaking for Labour, said that he would have done the same. Further, the Executive of the Labour Party refused the leaders of the deposed government a hearing and bade its constituency parties to do the same.

Again, Labour has been stragely silent on the proposed West Indian federation, when it is well known that the federal constitution is a backward step for Jamaica, and that there is no autonomy for the federation. The five main branches of government including foreign affairs, finance and defence rest with the British Parliament, and in any case the Governor-General is given the power "to reserve any Bill for H.M. pleasure."

WANT NEW POLICY

Reference is made to consulting and working with the peoples of colonial territories, but in the absence of an explanation as to how this will be done we can only go by precedent. In the post-war Labour Government, Mr. Creech-Jones, as Colonial Secretary, called colonial leaders to London to **tell them what he** intended to do. Will that be the form of future consultation?

What we need to see is a colonial policy which considers the interests of colonials.

[In the next issue, Y. Hosein will outline an alternative policy for the colonies.]

Big Business

from p.1

and admiration of a great Jamaican." Full page ads. were also taken by A. Issas, the Ariguanabo Textile Mills and by the Caribbean Cement Company.

A victory for the P.N.P. is certain but it will be essentially an expression of the people's disgust of ten years of corrupt Bustamante rule.

In the constituencies where the People's Freedom Movement is standing candidates and an alternative to the weak line of the P.N.P. leaders is provided the people readily accept it. In these two constituencies, the P.N.P. have now been reduced to telling the people that "if the P.N.P. isn't returned it must be Labour"; in other words they should not vote for the People's Candidate.

TRADE UNIONS IN GUIANA
— inspiring article by
Ashton Chase in next issue
of Caribbean News

'We must stop buying dear and selling cheap to Britain'

FERDINAND SMITH, President of the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions, gave his views on the general elections in an interview with the Editor of "Caribbean News". These questions were put to Mr. Smith two weeks before the elections actually took place, while he was in London.

Q. Who do you think will win the elections?

A. General opinion has it that the People's National Party led by Norman Manley will win, and personally I also believe the P.N.P. will win.

Q. Why then do you think Bustamante has slipped behind in the voters' confidence?

A. Bustamante's Labour Party is really a one-man party, and Busta has been increasingly boosting the capitalist system and championing the British rulers, and the people resent this because these are the people who are responsible for the growing crisis of poverty and unemployment. He has also lost support because of the repressive measures his government has instituted and his attack on progressives.

Q. What are the differences between these two major parties?

A. There is no difference between them. Both are demagogic. Busta's Labour Party are the Conservatives and Manley's P.N.P. are Her Majesty's loyal opposition. The P.N.P. offers no alternative policy.

Progressive policy

Q. Does that mean that voters will not be presented with an alternative policy in the elections?

A. No, some voters will have a chance to support a completely progressive policy through the People's Freedom Movement. It's programme first of all calls for independence for Jamaica. But to give you some idea of the immediate points in the programme, for example, we would carry out a progressive policy with regard to the land.

We would acquire and reclaim unused land and parcel it out to small settlers, and to make this a reality we would build roads to make remote land areas accessible to the market. This question of land is a key issue in Jamaica.

Further we would start a system of unemployment insurance. Where the money is to come from? — By increasing the royalty on bauxite of which we have 90 per cent. of world deposits. At the moment Jamaica is getting one shilling a ton for bauxite extracted by foreign companies, when bauxite sells on the world market at £3 a ton.

We would increase excess profits tax, and tax on profits by absentee landlords. At present we buy dear and sell cheap to Britain. The P.F.M. programme would change this policy to the benefit of Jamaicans.

These are just a few of the points in our programme.

Building a base

Q. Who are the P.F.M. candidates?

A. We are putting up two candidates, and supporting an independent. One of them is Lascelles Murray (West Hanover), a school teacher; the other is Clifford Gordon (N.E. St. Elizabeth), a carpenter. The independent we are supporting is R. O. Gordon (W. St. Thomas).

Q. Why is the People's Freedom Movement putting up only two candidates?

A. Based on its general prestige and trade union backing, the P.F.M. could have stood several more candidates, but because of lack of financial resources it could not do so, and we could not spread the little money we had too thin.

Q. What good do you think will come of putting up these candidates?

A. Putting up these two candidates championing a progressive working class policy. has already forced both the P.N.P. and J.L.P. to mouth the demagogy of mild socialism.

But apart from these immediate results, by taking part in elections this year even on a small scale will lay the basis for creating a real people's party based on labour. We call the movement the 5-year plan— to prepare for general elections in 1959. Meanwhile we intend to go vigorously into parochial elections.

Q. What of Ken Hill and the N.L.P.?

A. Ken Hill's party exists only in Western Kingston— his own constituency. He has played around with Busta, but Busta has dropped him. I think he will be defeated.

Q. What are your perspectives for the future of the movement?

A. We feel confident in our ability to change the undemocratic basis of the trade union movement in our country. We will work for democratic trade unionism based on the workers' control of their leaders, from the bottom up(instead of the opposite as exists now. The masses should feel that their leaders are part of them, the servants of the workers who take counsel with them and carry out their wishes. This system can be seen for example in the growth of the unemployed workers organisation.

Give it support

Q. In conclusion. do you have any message you want to convey to the readers of our paper?

A. Yes. I would like to appeal to Jamaicans and all West Indians, no matter what separate territory they originate in, that their individual support is necessary for the success of their country, and that they should contribute in whatever way they can for the achievement of the goal—independence for the West Indies.

Churning Out the Money

By OUR FINANCIAL WIZARD

Trinidad Sugar

AS the international sugar cartels tighten, West Indians nearly wholly in the service of King Sugar are bearing the real burden. The directors report that profits have fallen to £7,569, after they had written off all charges including capital equipment 'depreciation'. This term is used to explain a sum of money that Company Directors are permitted to offset against their companies' income, allegedly for purchasing replacements in due course. What a story to tell to many sugar factory employees?

The ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY and ST. KITTS (LONDON) SUGAR also reported on their accounts for the year ending August 31st. The directors, Moody-Stuart, Wenham, du Boison and Sir Alen Burns can still smile; on the one hand in Antigua they report a nett loss of £19,774, althought their current assets are as high as £311,000, plus cash of £71,000 and a stack of sugar and mollasses at an estimated selling price of £39,000.

Alternatively, ST. KITTS, **doubled** their profits over last year up to £41,442. Whow! Here they put away £125,000 to a General Revenue and still carried forward a balance of £7,816.

Sugar is still a surfeit for us in the West Indies, but how sweet for some people!

God bless . . .

IN the Winter Review (1954) of British Colonies, the Washington correspondent of the "Times" reported that Lord Hemingford "was told in all seriousness at one meeting attended by influential Washingtonians that Great Britain should revise her **liberalisation** policy . . . because her territories provided a great source of material wealth which was needed by the Anglo-American partnership in the fight against Communism."

So when West Indians shout: God bless America! one knows just what that means.

Gliksten

GUIANA, Guatemala and Gliksten!
Gliksten?

That's the big boy in British Honduras, Mr. S. G. Gliksten, timber merchant, Managing Director of J. GLIKSTEN & SONS, LTD. Registered in London, he reported that profits from his group was £628,831, that is an increase of £68,300 over last year.

Up at Mango Creek he is placing a new plainning-mill to finish off what is shed from concessions. On the Gold Coast, too, he's up to the same ideas, but he is not yet satisfied for he states with regret that his "operation in British Honduras, although profitable, were not up to expectation . . . "

This is our fight too

says RODDY ATHERLEY

AT the end of October last year I attended the "British Congress for World Security" as a delegate from the Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) and now endeavour to pass on to my fellow West Indians my impressions of the Congress.

The main object of the Congress was to report on, and develop to a much higher and broader plane the fight for Peace, against German rearmament, Asian security and prohibition of atomic weapons, thus establishing the necessary conditions for the peaceful co-existence of all nations.

The manner in which the business of the Congress was conducted was an eye-opener to me, and those responsible should be commended.

The session was attended by 633 delegates plus observers. Over 200 of these were official delegates from Labour Parties, Trade Unions and Co-operative organisations. There were also 200 delegates from 96 Peace Committees; messages were received from prominent Peace fighters in Europe, America. Asia, South America, and Egypt.

The C.L.C. (L.B.) was the only colonial organisation with representatives; there were observers and delegates from the Kenya Committee, and one observer from Liverpool spoke on behalf of the African peoples.

These were all warmly applauded, they brought home to the Congress the attitude of hte Colonial peoples on peace, the ending of the wars in Malaya and Kenya, peace in Europe and peace in the Colonies as well, our own contribution to the world fight, and the connection of the struggle for National Independence and that of Peace.

Guided Missiles

Sometimes West Indians are too complacent on this question of Peace, we fail to see its importance. Peace is important to us directly because we are human beings and in the second instance because we are colonials.

In this age of nuclear warfare and atom bombs our very existence is threatened in the event of a third world war. American guided missiles stations in St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands and Trinidad with air and naval bases in B.G., Grenada, Jamaica, are n illustration to those who think we'll be "safe".

Our fight for National Independence does not contradict our struggle for Peace, on the contrary, it is one and the same. The Imperialist nations—America, Britain and France must resort to vast armament expenditures in order to solve their own internal economic problems inherent in the capitalist system.

Any attempt by the Colonial peoples to throw off the Imperialist blood suckers meets with brutal repression; when the people in the Metropolitan countries resist further reduction in their living standards the "Soviet threat" is presented.

By actively supporting the Peace movement, and always paying attention to all questions of Peace, we strengthen our own movement and weaken the imperialists, mad generals and frightened politicians who, if they had their way, would hurl us all to destruction. The mass of people in the last instance have the final word, we can stop them and must.

Truculent Bosses

TRINIDAD — January 20th.

FOLLOWING the recent successful struggle by workers in the corporation electricity board, telephone workers decided on strike action for Tuesday, January 25th.

The employers, Trinidad Consolidated Telephone Company, have refused to meet the union, alleging that the President, Simeon Collymore, acted dishonestly on the job.

The telephone workers formerly belonged to the Federated Workers' Trade Union but due to dissatisfaction with the leadership broke away and since then were enticed to I.C.F.T.U. affiliation.

This recent flash of militancy has been a big surprise to the I.C.F.T.U. splitters.

LATEST NEWS: The Oilfield Employers' Association of Trinidad has rejected Oilfield Workers' Trade Union demand for a wage increase. Leaders told the employers that it was not they, but the workers who were demanding the increase and decided to report back to them immediately.

THE DANCING YEAR

ON Saturday, 1st January, 1955, at the Royal Hotel, the Caribbean Labour Congress held the first of their series of dances for 1955. The hall was packed to capacity with Coloured and Whites, happily enjoying themselves to the Super Rhythms of Ginger Johnson's band. Many West Indians who had just arrived in England, were full of praise and this should specially be a feather in the cap of the Social Committee of the C.L.C. whose undaunted efforts made the success of this dance possible.

Lepers Strike

TRINIDAD: A furore was created when Dr. M. G. Corcos, an English doctor in charge of the leprosarium at Chacachacare, allowed 160 lepers to spend the Christmas holiday on the mainland, mixing with the rest of the population. The doctor was removed from his post, but when his patients got the news they went on strike calling for the reinstatement of their doctor.

They have also sent petition to the Colonial Secretary. Police were called in and twelve leaders have been kept under police protection.

Dr. Corcos is known to have progressive views on the treatment of leprosy and was trying to build up his patients' morale. Both he and his wife have danced with lepers at parties.

Baby Boy

Congratulations this month go to Olive and Vass Jackson on the birth of their first baby—a boy of 7 lbs. 1 oz., on January 12th. Already two weeks' old the little tot is doing fine, and Mummy and Daddy are both wild over the beautiful creature.

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Colonial Youth Day

ON the 21st of February, 1946, the Indian sailors of the British Indian Navy revolted against British colonial policy. Since that day this date has been used as the traditional demonstration by all those who support the struggle against colonialism.

Guiana is a shinning example where the youth played a prominent part in, constitutionally mind you, telling the imperialists where to get off. West Indian youth are now in the forefront in the struggle for National liberation.

The British Government by the usual strong arm methods are trying to impede our progress. The attempt however is in vain. No longer are we satisfied to see the wealth of our native lands worked in the interest of a few overseas bigshots. No longer are we satisfied to accept meagre wages for work when or if obtainable No longer are we going to sit idly aside and be misled by politicians such as Grantley Adams, Gomes, Manley or Bustamante.

In our struggle we shall demand the right to develop our own economy and culture. We shall demand guaranteed work, full wages, proper medical facilities, and educational opportunities.

The struggle for independence, as history has taught, is no easy one. Martin Carter, West Indian people's poet expressed our undaunted spirits by these lines:—

"Although you come in thousands from the sea
Although you walk like locusts in the streets
Although you point your gun straight at my heart
I clench my fists above my head; I sing my song of
FREEDOM."

FESTIVAL

The Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship is being held in Warsaw, Poland this year from July 31st to August 14th. Entire cost will be £28. All West Indians wishing to go or to get more information should write to the Youth Organiser, C.L.C., 3, Robert Street, N.W.1.

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Hedley Gets Coaching Job

GEORGE HEADLEY is supposed to arrive early this year in Jamaica to take the post of official cricket coach. The appointment was approved by the Jamaica House of Representatives.

The post carries an annual salary of £1,500.

This is the second sports appointment made by the Government. The first one was Herb Backenly. The

TALKING POINTS ON SPORT
by Trevor Carter

Jamaica Football Association is now making plans to acquire Lindy Delapena as official island football coach. Lindy is now a soccer professional in England.

GOMEZ TO RETIRE

Gerry Gomex, 35-year old Trinidad-born West Indian International all-rounder, is to retire shortly from cricket for business reasons, states our Trinidad correspondent.

Gerry, rated as one of the best all-rounders in the world, will be greatly missed by Trinidad when they come up against the Jamaica XI later this year.

POMPEY MEETS DAWSON

Nottingham Ice Stadium and January 21st would be the place and date of the return match between Yolande Pompey (Trinidad) and the American Bobby Dawson who is now campaigning in France.

Pompey should turn the tables this time, because, although suffering from a damaged hand in the previous fight, Dawson was only able to beat him by a very narrow margin.

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Splitting Tactics used in Guiana

says CHEDDI JAGAN

"... But we can find no escape from the logical conclusion that so long as the present leadership and policies of the People's Progressive Party continue, there is no way in which any real measure of self-government can be restored in British Guiana" .....

Thus spoke the Robertson Constitution Commission in paragraph 212 of the Report released in November, 1954, on the British Guiana situation. There must be an indefinite "period of marking time"—no constitution, no elections. The dictatorial regime of Governor Savage is to continue with his puppet Legislative Council of his 27 nominated members (six—five of whom lost deposits—were defeated candidates at the 1953 elections when the P.P.P. won eighteen out of twenty four seats).

Incidentally, the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Lennox Boyd, speaking in the House of Commons accepted the Commission's conclusions except that without prejudice to the indefinite "period of marking time," he fixed December 1957, as the life of the present puppet Legislature.

This seems to have been the line of reasoning of the Commission. No other Party or Parties, singly or in combination, can win against the P.P.P. at any election, now or in the near forseeable future. Therefore, there must be no elections.

Constitutional life will proceed again when one or both of two events take place. One, the weakening of the P.P.P. vis-a-vis the other parties. Two, a split within the ranks of the Party.

In support of Scheme Number One, the Commission stated that **"we would hope that in the period (of marking time) plans for social and economic development would be energetically pursued and that the gradual improvement of social and economic conditions would help to bring about a change in the political outlook of the electorate."** In other words, by "pump-priming" with "gifts" and loans from H.M.'s Treasury, the people must be bribed away from supporting the P.P.P. in its fighit against Colonialism.

But just in case the people are not foolish enough to

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March-April ★ ★ 1955

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

Manley has No Solution for Jamaica

From our Jamaica Reporter

BY gaining 18 seats out of 32, the People's National Party has now become the elected Government of the colony. The Jamaica Labour Party, for ten years the elected Government, will now replace the P.N.P. as her Majesty's loyal (colonial style) Opposiition.

The rejection of the Jamaica Labour Party represents a strong protest against the high cost of living, mass unemployment, graft and corruption, and at the same time testifies to the mounting resistance to imperialist enslavement.

This is being reflected more than all in the defeat of Donald Sangster, ex-Minister of Finance, Chairman of the "300 Year British-Rule Celebrations Committee." He lost by 3,000 odd votes as against his majority of 48 in 1949.

The anti-working class activities of two other Ministers was to a large extent responsible for their defeat. The ex-Minister of Labour who refused to make available the Government's machinery to the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union despite its unquestionable membership on certain sugar estates, and who 'advised' all employers to do likewise, is one of them. He is now on his way to England, where he may find 'better' company. This should be a warning to the in-coming Minister of Labour.

The other is the ex-Minister of Communication and Works, Lawton Bloomfield who, because of his support of big business, had caused two strikes in quick succession in departments under his portfolio—the Railway and Post Office—about two weeks before elections. The other five Ministers, including Busta-

(continued on page 6)

Around the Islands

March 4th: NORMAN TANG, who operates as Minister of Health, in TRINIDAD, announced today that Dr. Ernest Muir, Chairman of the British mpire Leprosy Relief Association and Dr. Souza na, of the World Health Organisation, will be ming to Trinidad soon.

The pair are due to conduct an inquiry into the treatment, control and rehabilitation of lepers in the island.

More Conferences

Between March 13th and 18th, a Conference was due to take place in Port of Spain on 'Movement' of persons between the territories after the introduction of the Federal Constitution on a Crown-Colony basis in 1956.

Lord Lloyd, British Under Secretary of State for the British Colonies, will preside. He will be assisted by another Englishman, Sir Stephen Luke, who is also charged by the British Government to organise the mechanics of the Federal organisation.

Lots of West Indian lawyers will be there!

Jobs for the Boys

March 1st: Mr. Deverell, Colonial Secretary in JAMAICA, has been appointed on promotion to be Governor of the WINDWARD ISLANDS. He succeeds Sir Edward Beetham, another Colonial Office employee who, too, seems to please his masters. He's going on to replace Rance, who retires from his post in TRINIDAD.

Wonder which capitalist company will offer him (Rance) a Directorship, now?

TOP NOTCH GIRL

"CARIBBEAN News" girl of the month is Hannah Greenwood, who has ben consistently topping sales of the paper for several issues. Selling from house to house, at meetings, dances, and tubes, Hannah has become a popular figure among West Indians.

For November-December she sold 120, increased to 256 in January, and as we go to press the figure for her February issue sales is already 250 with more to come.

One of Hannah's favourite tastes is for B.G. pepper-pot!

C.L.C. A.G.M

THE Executive Committee of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) at its last meeting announcd that the Annual General Meeting of the organisation will take place on Sunday, June 26 . at 2.30 p.m. in the main hall, 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

In the programme will be a performance by the West Indian Festival dance group. All are invited.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

Guiana

IT is now just about six months since the British Government-appointed Robertson Commission made its report.

It reported back last November that the people continued to support the People's Progressive Party. Between then and now the British Government has been at work on two lines. One was to fool the Guianese people by talking big about development, housing schemes, and so on, thereby winning them away.

The other was more subtle—to split the leadership of the P.P.P. and thereby the party itself.

Mr. Ashton Chase, former P.P.P. Minister of Labour, said in London, as reported in our February issue. "The Robertson Commission's Report . . . was a clever attempt to split the P.P.P. on the basis of ideology and race. It sought to divided the party into who are Socialists and who are Communists, with personal references."

In other words, the British Government, which accepted the Report, said: Get rid of the 'extremists' and be good boys the rest of you, 'co-operate' with us and our exploitation and then you'll be allowed to have elections again.

Ashton Chase also had said recently: "But we don't intend to back pedal. We'll go forward no matter what ideologies there are, on the basis of unity."

In those few words Mr. Chase expressed the absolutely correct attitude from the point of view of the movement.

Unfortunately, however, from what has occurred, it appears that some leaders and members of the P.P.P. may have unwittingly fallen for the imperialist line.

Very briefly, the incident over which the split took place was whether a Congress should be held under the present conditions of police restrictions on movement of delegates.

Insofar as the facts are known to us. the 1953 Congress had decided that the next Congress would be a delegate congress, as distinct from a member's conference, and that it would be held in Berbice.

In March 1954, however, because of conditions of restriction, etc., a conference could not be held.

A section of the leadership felt that a Congress should be held now despite police restrictions. While others considered that any such gathering would be unrepresentative unless Government lifted restrictions on movement so that accredited delegates from P.P.P. branches all over the coast could attend.

'Not police congress'

Decisions were taken finally in the Executive Committee to convene a Conference in Georgetown on February 12th and 13th. During these deliberations however, several members of the E.C. were in prison, and when the General Council met there was not a quorum.

Statements and leaflets were issued before the Conference by two sections of opinion.

The Chairman issued a statement saying that despite what the Secretary had said to the contrary, there **would** be a Congress.

Sydney King, former Minister of Communications, in a leaflet headed "Lift Emergency Orders—Hold People's Congress, Not Police Congress," pointing out that a congress under such circumstaonces would be playing into the hands of the Imperialist Government, said: "No, Comrades! They can kick us out of the Government. They can jail us, make us report daily to the police, but can we allow them to carry out their designs? No! This will be surrender."

Agreement was reached. however, the night before the Conference was to take place and a joint statement was issued in the name of the Chairman and Secretary, saying that it would be purely a members' meeting with a fixed agenda. in Georgetown.

But at the meeting, Clinton Wong, who had resigned from the party when he did not get a Ministry in the P.P.P. government in 1953, rose and proposed suspension of standing orders in order to vote for a new Executive Committee. This the Chairman accepted, under protest from the Secretary. There followed a walkout of several E.C. members and members at the meeting.

The Secretary subsequently declared the meeting and its decisions invalid as a bona fide Congress.

Allied with the holding of an unrepresentative conference should be borne in mind the threat by Briish Imperialism that there would be no new elections until the Left was removed from leadership.

Any idea that progress will be achieved by 'cleaning up' the party, making it respectable, is grossly mistaken. That is not the way imperialism works, and cannot be fought by such methods.

The imperialists played heavily upon this feeling and have temporarily succeeded in confusing sections of the movement.

The task now facing the Guianese people is the cementing of unity in the course of the struggle against imperialism.

'DON'T BAR COLOURED WORKERS FROM BRITAIN'

THE British Government must not use legislation to bar coloured Colonials from coming to Britain, was the unanimous decision of delegates from 102 organisations taking part in a Conference called by the Movement for Colonial Freedom in London on Janaury 30th.

The Conference dealt with the problems of coloured immigrants to Britain, and delegates from trade union branches, Labour Party branches, co-operative societies and other organisations were given on the whole a picture of conditions of life in the West Indies and the reasons why West Indians are emigrating. Delegates went away with the feeling that they had learned much about the situation.

Mr. Yussef Hosein, Chairman of the West Indies Society of the London School of Economics, was the first speaker from the platform and he produced facts and figures testifying to the appalling poverty, unemployment, sickness and malnutrition in the West Indies.

Even the gruesome account given by Mr. Hosein was thought to be inadequate a picture by Mrs. Mabel Allen, wife of the former Jamaican Minister of Education. She said forty per cent. of Jamaicans were illiterate, and drew attention to the lack of places in the nursing profession in Jamaica for girls who would like to come to work in Britain.

Nearly all the speakers referred to the need for development of the economy of the West Indies, but a former Judge in the West Indies, Mr. C. W. Greenidge, felt there was no room for development except in British Honduras.

Another view as put, however, by Mr. Billy Strachan, of the Caribbean Labour Congress. He described the immense riches of the whole West Indies, including 90 per cent. of the capitalist world's bauxite resources, oil, sugar, iron, timber, manganese, copper, diamonds, and over 300 other minerals. He said that seven British companies drew in one year 3½ million pounds in profit from little Trinidad. And he made a resouding call for independence for the West Indies NOW, to be able to develop these resources.

STARVATION LEVEL

The average income per head of the 600 million people of Asia covered by the Colombo Plan is less than £20 per year, accoridng to the second annual report of the Colombo Plan.

LETTER BOX

Just the thing I needed

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your letter dated 22/1. I am very grateful for the information received and I must add that "Caribbean News" was just the thing I needed. You see, some of my Scottish friends seem to think that Jamaica and other W.I. islands are a bed of roses, just as the tourist brochures describe it.

Yes! I will be delighted to send any news of our W.I. comrades. So far there hasn't been anything worth while reporting save that the Glasgow Corporation announced that it would welcome applications for jobs from Colonials; at the moment there are a few employed on buses, tramcars, etc.

I remarked recently that I had a few suggestions. Now I am happy to say your previous issue contained two of them—(1) Viewpoint, (2) Sports Column.

I will now suggest two others:

(1) Circulation.

At the next meeting I suggest that you ask everyone concerned to make an effort to get at least one new reader, and I am sure if every self-respecting West Indian makes the effort, it can be done.

(2) Finance.

I trust I am right in assuming that "Caribbean News" is run solely on a non-profit making basis; that is to say no individual stands to gain financially.

I further suggest that you make an appeal for guarantors, say a target of 200 to start with, each guaranteeing to contribute so much each month. That, I am sure, will give a big boost to the fighting fund. Maybe this part is a bit far fetched, but I am sure it is not fantastic.

Is it possible to approach your Executve Committee to make readers own the paper? I am fully aware of the many difficulties such an idea would involve, but I am sure it could be done.

Enclosed herewith please find the sum of six shillings for 12 copies of February issue of "Caribbean News."

Regards to all members of the staff.

Fraternally yours,
Harold Tate (Clydebank).

New Constitutions Again

From our St. Vincent Correspondent

THE People's Political Party returned in local elections held in the town of Georgetown, Saint Vincent, three of the four elected members in the Town Council. Their term is a period of three years.

The B.B.C. announced recently so-called new Constitutions for the Leeward and Windward Islands. The Islands of the groups mainly affected are Antigua and some others of the Leewards, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia.

Dominica abstained from taking part in the proposed schemes, called by the Secretary of State for the Colonies "constitutional advancement."

It was further announced that the constitutional instruments for the changes have been received from Whitehall and the local Legislature in St. Vincent was preparing for a debate on the 13th January 1955.

A motion is to be tabled in the Legislative Council to debate the promise of an investigation into the matter of Joshua's arrest on the 20th December 1952, with all the resultant consequences which this most heinous act entailed. The motion is to call upon the present Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs to carry out the promise of investigating the matter of Joshua's arrest and maltreatment, and expense of unwarranted proceedings taken against him by ill-advised legal men.

The British Guiana Government under savage interim dictatorship declared the Hon. E. T. Joshua an undesirable visitor to the Colony of British Guiana. It was noted that the same thing was done in Trinidad.

Wage Boards

In their mad fury to stamp out Trade Unionism and to handicap the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union, the Administration, through the agent and their labour stooges, are busy setting up wage boards. In the supposed new Constitution, the Administrator, and incidentally the Governor, will be Minister of Labour.

In the 3rd Sessions of the Annual Conference of Delegates of the F.I.A.W.U., election of officers took place on the 3rd January, and the President, E. T. Joshua, was unanimously re-elected, with an executive committee of twenty persons. The Secretary, Alma Johnson, remained in office at the pleasure of the Union.

The President's brother Joseph Conrad Joshua, is coming to England in March. He will be sailing with his wife from Trinidad in the first week in March. He is trying to study law, as his brother needs an honest lawyer. To all our friends, well-wishers and C.L.C. comrades, assist Com. J. C. Joshua wherever he may stand in need.

Irish Solidarity

THE "Irish Democrat," in its February editorial, deals frankly with the question of mounting discrimination against the Irish in Britain, and offers some lines of action to counteract and combat the attacks and propaganda against them. But they do not only concern themselves with the Irish, for says also: "When you find the coloured boys being attacked (and they are getting the brunt of it right now), don't fall for the argument that if they are punishing Sambo they'll lay off Paddy. The fact that they establish the principle of discrimination will tell heavily against us because nobody knows who will be next. So fight for the coloured men AS IF THEY WERE IRISH!"

Need we add that the same holds true for West Indians. Unity in the common fight is the only solution.

* * *

Bosses Got Scared

THE Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions had its first general conference on February 6th. Ferdinand Smith was elected President, Rolly Simms 1st Vice-President, Ivy Harris 2nd Vice-President, Ormsby General Secretary, McClarthy Treasurer, and 3 trustees.

In Siloah, Appleton Estate tried a bluff. Management refused to take back any men from the districts where the vote had been overwhelmingly for Gordon (the People's Freedom Movement candidate). But after Rolly Simms spent a week out there and the four of them, Rolly Simms, Gordon, Don Horne and Winston Monroe had been round the districts and explained the facts to everybody, the estate got scared and took everybody back.

THAT FAMOUS TOUR . . .
What Margaret did not see

READERS of "Caribbean News" will perhaps excuse their paper for not sending a reporter and photographer along as the big capitalist press did to cover the every move of Princess Margaret of Britain in her much boosted tour of the West Indies.

At least one of the reasons is a little matter of finance, and we are sure readers can think of several other ways they would like to see such money spent, if we had it.

Nevertheless, oodles of columns of newsprint and thousands of feet of film have been churned out to inform how lavish the preparations were and how local flunkeys turned out to bend the knee.

The Royal visitor was carefully shepherded through the major territories of the British dominated West Indies, including Trinidad, Barbados, Antigua, Grenada, St. Vincent, Jamaica, and Bahamas. One notable exception was Guiana. Do you wonder why?

Our people, by and large, regarded the affair as a slight relief providing some variation and spectacle in their lives.

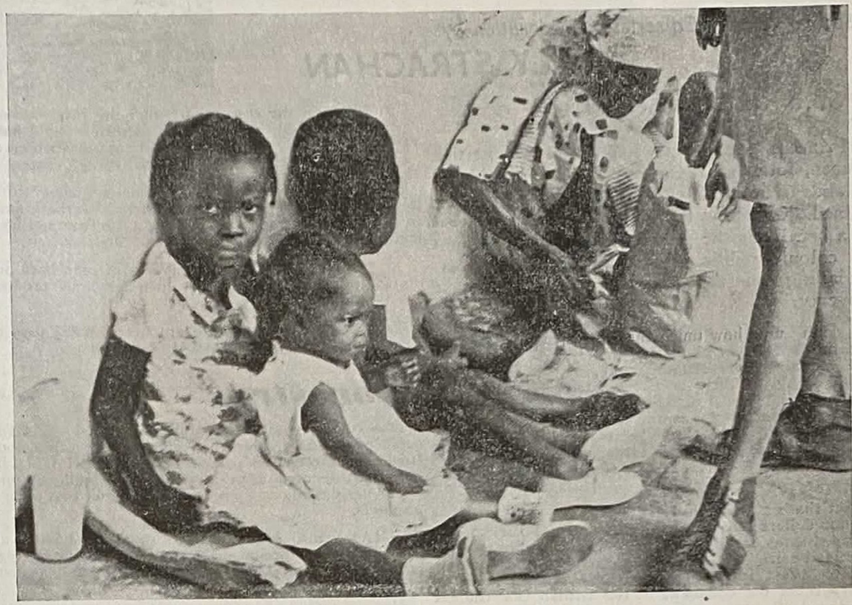
Margaret seems to have enjoyed the calypsos. Well, good for her! The calypso bands and folk dancing put on for her only indicates what our people can really do culturally, and in a much bigger way given the chances.

Lavish garden fetes for up to three thousand people and parties were got up with selected social climbers invited. But alongside these expensive shows, they went to a lot of trouble to hide the poverty and slums along the Royal route.

McColl, of the "Daily Express" had this to say: "You know, I think it is a pity that the Princess never gets to see anything except the main streets, the big squares, and the nice views. Turn down nearly any side street in this part of the world and pretty soon you are among squalor, poverty, and sleaziness. I do not suppose the Princess has any notion that scores of people sleep on the pavements every night in Port of Spain. She does not get to see the beggars that infest parts of these islands."

In Kingston, Jamaica, painted boards were put up along the route to conceal the hovels from Royal eyes, though I don't suppose Margaret could not have stood it.

Our St. Vincent correspondent described the expense and lengths the Government went to in whitewashing and cleaning, and asks why the money could not be found normally to do these things. They even painted stones in the river.



THIS family sleeps on the concrete floor of a shed at premises of the Kingston Charity Organisation on lower Church Street, in Central Kingston. Here they are in the early morning of June 1st, 1953, having spent the night right where they are with paper bags for a mattress. The mother has already gone in search of food and grandmother is in charge. Note the new frocks and shoes—these were a "coronation" charity distribution by the society ladies designed to encourage "loyalty." Living in Central Kingston they were lucky, others like them living in the slums would not attract the notice of these ladies.

FESTIVAL IN WARSAW

IN trying to popularise this year's Festival in Warsaw, at the factory where I work I come into conflict with some emigre Poles. These chaps either know nothing about the present Government in Poland or are going all out to "mauvais langue" it

In conversation with one of these fellows, I told him of my intentions of going to his MOTHER land. Well, you can imagine the fuss he kicked up. He was pretty sure that I'll never return, that I'll be sent to some forced labour camp and all that sort of nonsense.

Seeing that I was getting well ahead in convincing my fellow British workmates what a good tme was in store for all at the Festival, he told them that going was quite a foolish thing, using the usual anti-Communist claptrap, that the majority of the people were hostile to the government, they would most likely harm them.

This barrage of stupidity from the Pole went on for some time. Finally realising that it was to no avail, he then said the Polish Youth would give us the most cordial hospitality that can be dreamt of anywhere . . . . . fearing the wrath of their government.

I am convinced more than ever now, for surely this Pole has certainly defeated his purpose, because any fool would realise that no government can forcibly make young people dance, smile in a way a West Indian could appreciate.

On the whole the Festivals have become internationally recognised as the leading events of sport and culture. It is the only occasion that would make it possible for West Indians to meet other young people of various nationalities, colour and beliefs in peace and friendshp.

For us the Festival would be really unique. There would be the chance of really seeing the truth of what is going on behind the Anglo-American iron curtain. Warsaw is very significant, as just ten years ago it stood ruthlessly devastated by Nazism. The remarkable achievement of reconstruction in ten years of people's rule will surely be a symbol of hope for us.

West Indians desirous of joining our happy band for the Festival should write to the Youth Organiser of Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.) soon, as the closing date for applications is the 18th June.

* * *

Festival—Warsaw-Poland.
Time—31st July to 14th August.
Cost—£29 for two weeks, £33 for 3 weeks.

Trevor Carter

BOOK WORLD

Missing the Facts

LAST October the Labour Party adopted a policy statement on the Colonies, at its annual conference. This was analysed by Y. Hosein in the February issue of "Caribbean News."

Two months after that bare skeleton was adopted, a pamphlet was issued which in its 40 pages gives fuller expression to those original ideas. "Facing Facts in the Colonies" (6d.) is a Labour Party discussion pamphlet, of which Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the Party, in the foreword, says it "should in no sense be regarded as an official policy statement."

Nevertheless, the pamphlet develops the themes of the official statement in the form of posing problems and questions. But one is not left puzzling long to see which way the official policy makers are inclined. The issues and problems are posed in such a way as to lead to watering down any principles of Socialism still held by the Labour Party.

Conceding that Colonial people are poor "in a way that not even the depression in this country taught us to understand," it goes on to say, "We have not created that poverty; it it implicit in the climatic conditions, in the insect pests which are destructive of plants and human health, and in the special soil problems of tropical countries."

Of course imperialiism did not **create** poverty. But putting it in this way is used to disguise the fact that it is the system by which a few are enriched at the expense of millions, to keep these millions in poverty, increasing their misery, and by its very nature acting as a brake on the development of Colonial peoples.

The Labour imperialists base their existence on imperialism and have fashioned their ideologies on the assumption that the British **people** as a whole need to exploit the Colonies.

This comes out clearly in the horror picture held ou to the British people: "It is no use talking airily about increasing our assistance to the Colonies . . . unless we are prepared to meet the real cost involved. And the real cost is not in money but in terms of goods forgone by the British people."

One gets the feeling that progressive rank and file Labour members are being threatened with sacrifice and defeat if they continue to press for development for the Colonies.

The issues are presented as so many insurmountable problems, involving psychological quirks, and one gets the impression that the official Labour Party is helpless to solve these 'problems.' Which underlines the fact that Labour Party policy can contribute nothing to Colonial development, for the leaders have come to accept Tory capitalist policies as their own. They are now indistinguishabie.

★

Students' new magazine

FOR nine years the West Indian Students' Union has been in existence and at long last the Union is to be congratulated on producing a printed magazine of good standard.

This is not to say that W.I.S.U. had no magazines before or that they were not good. But in its printed format the magazine is able to get more material in, and the variety of subject matter is on the whole refreshing.

Ranging widely over federation, sports, poetry, short stories and the role of science in developing the West Indies, there is a particularly good article by Mr. A. E. Charles, M.A., on 'A Mixed Economy for Guiana.'

In this he says: "There can be no economic priority over political progress; in fact, both are complementary, particularly in colonies where monopoly vested interests so seldom pay the piper but always call the tune."

Dr. C. Belfield Clarke contributes an interesting and readable article on "West Indians in England."

Priced at one shilling, the magazine is a good buy.

We. of Caribbean News," know the difficulties of running a regular paper, and we sincerely wish success and good luck to W.I.S.U. for continued publication of their magazine for West Indian students.

MY FABULOUS JEWELS

Second article of a series on Federation by

BILLY STRACHAN

TODAY we are in the news.

Princess Margaret, sister of the British Queen, follows a year later to the Caribbean Islands to be feted, cheered and lavishly entertained. My, how things have changed; but it is a break for the poor folk at home. A spot of colour, public gaiety, and a little soft-pedalling on the old tale of our intense poverty.

I don't know how much the whole party cost but in addition to British taxpayers' money, for the cost of the Royal yacht Britannia (reputed to cost over £1,000,000), there has been the additional 'vote' for funds from the local cash boxes, for white washing the fronts of shops, shanties and bedraggled public buildings. Down in tiny St. Vincent, our correspondent Alma Johnson, tells us that they even white-washed the stones in the river! Not so poor, after all, are we?

But that's all chicken-feed, when we read of the ten million dollars that TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS LTD. shipped away for 1954—in all, the six oil companies in Trinidad seized £3½ million, or seventeen and one-half million West Indian dollars. We therefore see in sharp relief the comment in the British Government approved Robertson Commission Report: "It is, however, clear from its physical make-up that British Guiana can hardly be much more economically than a comparatively poor country . . . ."

Expensive jaunts

Contrast this with the news from a B.G. capitalist news sheet on January 18th, that the Savage Government had agreed to pay the expenses for sending two of his nominees to Trinidad to pay their respects to the British Crown. It was expensive jaunts such as these, that Jagan and his colleagues would not waste the people's cash, but here we see the Hon. P. A. Cummings whom the electorate rejected at the 1953 General Elections off with his wife along with Mr. Garaj, with his wife to junket and flaunt with brazen cheek his subservience to a foregn monarchy.

But let's get back to TRINIDAD for one moment, they have a winner. The 'big boys' like Simon J. Vos and Lord Baileu of Dunlops and Trinidad Leaseholds know it too. The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union put in a demand for a paltry increase for 1955. and the mean cheese-parers refused. Four million tons of oil product are extracted annually.

The new refineries at Point Fortin and Point à Pierre have a capacity of 6,000,000 tons throughput. Governor Rance on October 24th, 1954, opening the 1954/55 Legislative Assembly boasted of the steady record of progress in the oil industry. He disclosed that oil moguls had secured exploration leases for a marine area of 900,0000 acres, slightly more than the land area already purloined, which is 89% of the total area of the beautiful isle, whose three prominent peaks motivated the religious Columbus to name it TRINIDAD.

Sugar & Spice

Poor rocky islands!—but let's be fair, a legend has been built up far and wide, that things are not TOO bad in Trinidad; that is, in comparison to the other territories. They only have 9 out of 30 of the labour force unemployed, whereas, the others have 10 out of thirty!

They produce sugar too, in Trinidad; just under 200,000 tons annually.

What a jewel! Remember the West Indies have been called the Sugar and Spice islands—and JAMAICA springs to mind.

But now the snags. Production is limited by the INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT, admitted by the Caribbean Commisision Report of 1949,

> "But for the restriction under the International Sugar Agreement, additional factories would have been erected, and the total sugar production of Jamaica would have been considerably greater."

Still Jamaica turns out more than a quarter of a million tons of sugar annually. Mr. G. Vernon Tate, of the WEST INDIES SUGAR CO. (a Tate and Lyle subsidiary) in his Annual Report of 1954 boasted:

> "We have had another successful year, both our factories again exceeding their previous production records."

Tate's two factories alone produced 137,852 tons at Frome and Monymusk.

Forestry

This company alone painfully extracted a NETT profit of £388,573. The whole Tate and Lyle kingdom (including the estates occupied by CARONI LTD. in Trinidad) secured a profit of over £3 million sterling. Besides sugar, there is molasses and rum as by-products.

GUIANA also is addicted to sugar production at the will of the foreign masters; they too, produce a million tons from 17 large plantations, mainly owned by London Registered companies.

Every island can produce sugar AD INFINITUM; Little England (Barbados) turns out 150,000 tons, St. Kitts 35,000 tons, Antigua 25,000 tons, etc. The only exception is Tobago and St. Thomas.

In Agriculture and Forestry, we enjoy proportionately unequalled potential wealth. GREENHEART, MAHOGANY, LIGNUM VITÆ and other hardwoods spread across HONDURAS and GUIANA. World prices remain sky-high, Gliksten of Honduras, and Bookers of Guiana thrive, but West Indian workers suffer some of the hardest and most gruelling conditions in this production.

ARROWROOT, LIMES, CLOVES and NUTMEG are bountiful in St. Vincent, Dominica and Grenada.

In fact, tiny little quaint Grenada accounts for one-fifth of the world supply of spice, amazingly a wholly peasant cultivated industry.

300 metals

GOLD from GUIANA, TIN from HONDURAS, cattle grazing facilities, COPPER and MANGANESE from JAMAICA, IRON and 300 other base metals, including URANIUM from GUIANA, all can contribute to economically successful industrialisation.

Today, above us all, giant cranes and shovels sear the skyline at MacKenzie, in Guiana, and Mandeville, in Jamaica. BAUXITE, the base for pure Aluminium, lies in untold quantities only surface deep beneath our rich top-soil. Estimates go to 300,000,000 tons, or over 9% of the total known deposits in the capitalist world. Production in GUIANA in 1953 was:

3,014,420 crude mined,
1,7769,993 kiln dried,
2,015,160 crude washed,
247,680 carbide bauxite.

Then what the dickens do all you West Indians fall over each other for, getting out by train, ship and aeroplane to London?

Who enjoys this sweet fat that flows from our rich land? Not me, or you my brother from Grenada, Tobago or St. Lucia. A.L.C.O.A., the Aluminium monster from Canada and the U.S.A., own **ALL** our bauxite. My country receives 1/- per ton royalty in Jamaica, or 4/- per ton in Guiana, and the Yankee thieves pocket £3 per ton on the world market.

Poor for the West Indians; but Rich for the Foreigner. So what are we going to do, ask JAGAN? or Manley?

Ed. Comment: Next month Billy Strachan will examine the two policies.

Cutting the tall sugar cane stalks in the West Indies

Barbados Round-up

From our Barbados Correspondent

DURING the past year the people of Barbados were able to identify themselves with all their brothers overseas who are fighting for self-government. We were able to bring to an end the ring of isloation which Adams, with the aid of the Colonial Office, was able to cast about us. The Caribbean Socialist Party of Barbados, which was formed by the Caribbean Peoples' Alliance last January, was foremost in this battle.

In January last year the C.S.P. held the biggest mass meeting that was ever held locally. Resolutions were passed, protesting the denial of the C.S.P. of their democratic rights to hold a mass meeting in Queen's Park as well as the undemocratic suspension of the constitution of Guiana. Our agitation subsequently was so great that Adams and his ministers, rather than risk voting against W. A. Crawford's Bill to allow Dr. Jagan and L. Burnham, to land here, walked out of the House, thus leaving the way clear for a unanimous vote.

In March, Ashton Chase. who was on his way to the Caracas Conference, was refused permission to land, but as soon as the C.S.P. was aware of this they took the matter up with a member of the House and are still awaiting a satisfactory reply from the Government, who tried to deny the whole incident.

The C.S.P. was the only party in the island to celebrate May Day 1954, and the success of our giant rally and mass meeting put the scare in the local Wall Street boys. Nevertheless, none of these attacks caused us to worry as they only served to attract more and more of the masses to our two organisations.

Scared of Ideas

The exercise of our democratic freedom to import and read any kind of literature we liked, seemed to cause the local Big Sixes some worry and they used this heart-ache as an excuse to justify an assault on our cherished freedoms by claiming that Communist literature was invading the island, and went on to claim that if nothing was done soon, Barbados would become another B.G.

Some of us could only pray to God it really did, for we see British Guiana not as a land of anti-imperialist foreign agents, but as the first Colony in the West Indies to make a successful exposure of imperialist tactics and their favourite quotation of 'leadinig backward people to their goal of self-government.'

August saw the cowardly and spineless resignation from the Barbados Workers' Union of the President Grantley who, for three consecutive years, failed to produce the accounts of the Union in a condition to be audited. One couldn't help feeling for some of these misguided workers who, by the most indescribable means, were able to save Union subscriptions from some of the lowest wages found anywhere, who only ended up by seeing their money unaccounted for.

But the greatest event of the year came in November last, when a member of our party, Mr. Cameron Tudor, who, as an Independent Socialist candidate, defeated the Labour Party and its candidate in a by-eleciton. This defeat of Adams and the Labour Party was made possible by the unstinting support given Tudor by members of our Party. The "Beacon," Adams' paper, kept up a constant attack on the President of the C.S.P., whom, they admitted, played the most important part in the downfall of the Adams' candidate. This success, no doubt, shows Adams that the writing is on the wall.

Combat this evil

AT its annual general meeting on February 22nd, the Wembley Branch of the Associated Society of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, after listening to a West Indian speaker, Mr. Val Alcock, passed the foll wing resolution:

This Branch is concerned with the dangers attending the recent expression of racialism evinced by the attitude of the West Bromwich busmen, members of the T.G.W.U.

It calls on the E.C. to raise with the T.U.C. the question of actively combating this evil.

Must have the pie now — not when we die

In this concluding article YUSSUF HOSEIN discusses a progressive programme for the West Indies

THE dicussion in the previous issue has shown that the Labour Party has nothing concrete to offer the West Indies. This "Socialist" party has condemned us to a miserable existence. There is little hope for us, and we must be patient; "there's pie in the sky when we die." But since we prefer "pie" while we are alive, we must be up and doing. We must have a sound programme based on an analysis of the conditions which are at present ruining the West Indies.

One writer on the West Indies has very ably summed up the causes of the depraved conditions as being due to:

(1) Single crop economy.

(2) Emphasis on export crops which has
   (a) discouraged local food production;
   (b) retarded manufacturing.

(3) Land is wastefully used, especially by the large Estate owners.

(4) Prices of the agricultural products are too low, while the profit demands of the absentee owners several thousand miles away are too high to allow a living wage to the workers.

(5) Absentee control of both the political and economic life of the W.I. This last point is the crux of the trouble, and any progressive programme must aim at changing that situation.

PAPERING CRACKS

The first and most important aim is to win our independence. The phoney Federation plans of the Colonial Office must be exposed. It merely transfers financial responsibility to the W.I. while the main branches of Government, especially finance and foreign affairs, are retained by the Colonial Office. What we need is a real Federation which would place full control of all affairs in our oyn hands. Anything short of complete independence is just trying to paper up he cracks, while leaving gaping holes elsewhere.

So long as full political control does not rest in our hands, our resourves would be drained away. A good example is that about £10 million worth of bauxite is extracted from B.G. and Jamaica each year, while both colouies together get less than £200,000 for it. With political control we would be in a position to socialise the economy for the benefit of all our people. Land settlement schemes must be introduced.

Unused lands of the large estates, and Crown lands must be distributed in leasehold to peasant families, care being taken to ensure that the holdings are large enough to support the family. Our farmers must move away from the cash crop idea, and single crop economy, to a diversified form of agriculture, with emphasis on scientific farming to produce food. Ranching must be developed to provide meat and milk.

ELECTRICITY

Hand in hand with food production must go industrial development. Textiles, shoes, building materials (cement, bricks, timber, plaster boards, tiles), are some industries to be developed. Instead of exporting cocoa, sugar, citrus fruits etc. in raw form, they must be refined and processed. Water power must be harnessed to produce electricity for domestic and industrial use. Electricity would allow us to extract alumina from the bauxite, so leading to development of aluminium products.

All these development schemes would provide work for our people, and make it possible to raise the standard of living by providing better food, housing, schools and social services. Production would be for the benefit of our people and not a few capitalists in Canada, England, and the United States. Naturally we would have to depend on friendly nations for loans to set up these schemes, but as we would have commodities to offer in exchange, we would be able to get the necessary money.

ACT NOW

The above programme would necessarily take several years before it could be fully implemented. As little of the wealth now produced in the W.I. is left behind, an immediaite step for an independent W.I. Government would be to retain most of it by increasing profit and income tax, and putting an end to excess profits.

The revenue resulting would help us to embark on the above schemes. The interests of the few must be subordinated to the interests of all. This will become a reality when we forget our petty differences, shake off our prejudices, and unitedly join the fight for an independent Federation.

Imperialism's splitting moves

from page 1

give up the P.P.P., then there is another road—the old policy of divide and rule. Split the Party by playing up to one section, the minority against the majoritiy, the "moderates" versus the "radicals."

In India it was the Moslems versus the Hindus; in Palestine, the Arabs versus the Jews, in British Guiana, it is the Africans versus the Indians, the Democrats, the "Socialists" versus the extremists, the "Communists."

In paragraph 214, the Commission clearly pointed the road of opportunism and treachery when it said: **"The extremist leaders of the P.P.P. and the policies for which they stand are the sole barriers to constitutional progress."** For the British imperialists, of course, the definition of the term "extremist" has a wide range of elasticity. The Indians know this only too well. Was it not only yesterday when Prime Minister Nehru and other Indian leaders were the widest extremists. According to the British yardstick, even the Kabaka of Buganda was an extremist.

Kick out left

The people and even some of the leaders, the Commission then went on to suggest, must purge the party of this "extremist" leadership, must change its policy. The right wing must kick out the left wing. The moderates must bring the policy in line with imperialist plans. After this there may be hope for new elections.

Knowing that the East Indians are the majority racial group, the "extremist" leader of the Party is an Indian, the deputy "democratic socialist" leader an African, the government administrative machinery chiefly in the hands of Africans, the Commission sought to sow the seeds of discord and dissension by attacking the Indians. The Indian element, it said, has now shaken off its previous lethargy. It raised the old bogy of Indian educational and commercial success being a threat to the security of the other races, particularly the Africans, who constitute the second major race group. **"Their very success in these spheres,"** it asserted, **"has begun to awaken the fears of the African section of the population, and it cannot be denied that since India received her independence in 1947 there has been a marked self-assertiveness amongst Indians in British Guiana Guianese of African extraction were not afraid to tell us that many Indians in British Guiana looked forward to the day when British Guiana would be a part, not of the British Commonwealth but of an East Indian Empire. The result has been a tendency for racial tension to increase . . . . . today the relationships are strained; the present an outward appearance which masks the feelings of suspicion and distrust."**

Opponent refutes

Mr. C. R. Jacob. President of the East Indian Association, roundly attacked this viewpoint, which he described as "purely fictitious." He went on to state **"There's greater unity today than there ever was in the history of this country, and it is because of this unity that Guianese witnessed the great conspiracy of last year which resulted in the rape of the Waddington Constitution"** Lest it be assumed that Mr. Jacob is speaking for the P.P.P., let me point out that he was an opponent of ours at the last elections.

Made mistake

Should one or both of these sinister schemes succeed, what is the plum that is held out? Will we get back even the limited Constitution which was destroyed with the help of gunboats and bayonets? No. That constitution apparently gave too much Although the Governor had the overriding powers of veto and certification, the policy-making Executive Council had a majority of 6-4 in favour of the elected. Incidentally the Robertson Commission let the cat out of the bag. In paragraph 216 of the Report, it stated: **"But it is clear from paragraph 97 of their Report that the Commission (Waddington Constitution) did not accept that all elected ministers would be drawn from one party and thus enable it to assume a decisive role in the Executive Council."** In other words, the Waddington Commission did not expect that a single party would have won a majority. That accounts for their generosity. This mistake, said the Robertson Commission, must be corrected. The P.P.P. by winning 18 out of the 24 seats, demonstrated that they could win a majority.

Therefore, "the reintroduction of a ministerial system based upon universal adult suffrage with elected ministers in the majority in Executive Council is bound to involve the risk that the impetuosity and inexperience of elected ministers will necessitate frequent recourse to reserved powers. We, therefore, believe that for an initial period there should be some means short of using the Governor's reserved powers, of ensuring that the well-being of the Colony as a whole is not jeopardised and that the basic principles of democratic government are observed."

Basic principles of democratic governmen! Who will enunciate these? Not the people's elected representatives, but nominated and official members. Any future Executive Council must have an equality of five elected and five official and nominated members with the Governor holding the casting vote.

The substance of power will even then come back fully into the hands of Whitehall.

A few other minor variations on the Waddington Constitution were recommended. The Upper fully nominated House, the State Council, will have (in addition to the one Minister Without Portfolio, three other Ministers (one Minister with Portfolo chosen by the elected Mnisters, the Chief Secretary and the Development Secretary, both Government officials.

The Lower House, the House of Assembly, will have 25 elected members and two Government officials, and of these 6 will be ministers (four elected Ministers without Portfolios, the Financial Secretary and Attorney General, and two officials."

In other words, the portfolios of defence, police, law and order, justice, foreign affairs, finance, will be outside the hands of elected Ministers, while the Governor will have the last say with his casting vote in the Executive Council, proceedings of which incidentally are secret.

Governor is boss

To round off their reactionary proposals, they suggested "that all statutory Boards, Committees of Inquiry and boards with executive functions should be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Executive Council, but that the Governor, in approving or refusing assent should act in his discretion. With regard to committees solely advisory to a Minister, the Minister should make the appointments."

The elected Ministers must be no more than puppets. Further, they considered it advisable that the Legislature should not have financial control over certain services. These are the Governor and his staff, and the Public Services Commission.

The Robertson Commission has done well the job for which is was hired. And to Mr. Lyttelton (now Lord Chandos) has gone a tactical victory. For of the three members of the Commission, one was a high trade union official of the British Trades Union Congress, another a prominent Guianese. But for us too, has come a victory—we have succeeded in thoroughly exposing the nauseating hypocrisy of the British Government about leading colonial peoples to self-government.

Manley's Policy

from page 1

mente, managed to scrape through, but with their 1949 majorities sharply reduced.

The People's Freedom Movemnent, formed five months before the elections in order to secure the best for the people, although not securing seats, made a definite impression on the electorate.

Its platform of anti-imperialism, anti-exploitation, and unity of the common people against their enemy, made it possible for the people to see the real enemy in full view. The two constituencies where candidates were put forward resulted in sugar workers giving solid support. In North St. Elizabeth, the people's candidate polled more votes than both the Labour Party and the Farmers' Party candidates combined, in the sugar area.

The "Jamaica Times" saw our success as the "seeds of Communism." It is, however, known by the people to be the seeds of anti-imperialism.

Ken Hill's folly

Ken Hill's National Labour Party's defeat was due entirely to his policy of refusing to "re-unite the Left," and go forward on a militant working-class programme. Instead, this ex-working class leader allied himself with the discredited Bustamante, in the hope that Busta would not run a candidate against him.

The shrewd Bustamante, however, played up to him, and four weeks before the elections nominated his candidate for the constituency. Hill was left in the cold. Busta was right back in town. The very constituency that Bustamante himself had to run away from in 1949, is once more represented by a Busta man. Thanks to Ken Hill.

Because of the "Left" division and the fact that the Bustamante Party has completely discredited itself, the P.N.P. was able to convince the electorate to accept it as the available alternative.

What of Socialism?

The programme, far from being a Socialist one, is very pleasing to the local capitalists and to imperialism. Apart from abandoning nationalisation and unemployment pay, it walks wide of the immediate needs of the people. "It is the J.L.P. that has converted the P.N.P. to Free Enterprise," boasts the J.L.P.

Immediately the results were known, Mr. Manley issued a statement saying that Nationalisation was not the answer for the island's problems. The "answer," he said, "is an intensified growing agricultural programme with capital assistance from abroad."

This is what he calls "moderate Socialism." A couple of days later, Manley arrived in New York in search of an "expert and adviser" to his Government. He found a Mr. Cadbury in six hours. Interviewed by the American Radio, he was asked about his Party and Socialism. "Never mind about Socialism! that's a theoretical idea," he said. "We are interested in a thing called practical development and what we need is foreign capital" "American business, take note!" the Yankee announcer called.

This is how Manley plans to discredit and drag Socialism in the gutter. But the People's Freedom Movement has called a conference to analyse the election results and consider the possibility of creating a REAL People's Movement as a genuine alternative to the present policies of the P.N.P. leaders which is bound to frustrate the hopes of our people. Manley will not be allowed to mislead the people as his cousin Bustamante, for ten years.

The fight goes forward for Freedom from Imperialism, for Better Living Conditions and for Peace.

WEST Indians in Brixton had a wonderful time of their lives in their own locality on Saturday February 26th, when a grand calypso dance was held at the Lambeth Town Hall, organised by the C.L.C.

Publicity was focused on this dance as on the one the previous week, because it was thought to be a test of working together between black and white in Brixton.

In the picture, from left to right: Councillor White of Lambeth; Billy Strachan, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress; and Col. Marcus Lipton, M.P.

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FEDERATION — but bans on movement remain

TRINIDAD, April 3rd: At a public meeting held in Port of Spain on Thursday, March 17th, following the Inter-Migration Conference, speakers were the Hon. E. M. Gairy (Grenada); N. W. Manley, Chief Minister, Jamaica; F. W. Glasspole, Minister of Labour, Jamaica; V. C. Bird (Antigua); and J. Baynes (St. Vincent).

Manley, the principal speaker, maintained that if this opportunity for Federation were lost, it would be a great disaster for the West Indies. He made no mention of the bans imposed on freedom of movement of West Indians within the territories proposed for Federation.

He condemned people who split parties, forgetting it was he and the Right opportunists who had split the P.N.P. of Jamaica. The Hon. E. M. Gairy and the Hon. J. Baynes were roughly handled by the crowd of over 5,000 people for the lack of content in their speeches and their demagogy. They took their seats with great loss of prestige.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj, observer from the Interim Government of Guiana, was stoutly booed for three minutes before he could speak. He was asked about Jagan and whom he represented. He beat a hasty retreat after getting through a few words.

On the opening day of the Conference, seamen broke the official peacefulness by demanding "Jobs for Unemployed Seamen." The compromise solution on which these good W.I. politicians agreed leaves the immigration ordinance intact, with their right to exclude West Indians on so-called security grounds.

Cheddi Jagan, who is banned in almost all the West Indian territories, remains banned. So, too, with the rest. The "good politicians" will be free to travel and arrange their opportunist alliances, and carry out their dirty work against the people. At the end of five years, depending on the temper of the people, they will take their next step. (C.P.N.S.)

Polio strikes

KINGSTON (Jamaica).—A total of 761 cases of poliomyelitis were reported in Jamaica last year. In the first two months of this year there were 37 new cases. ("The Times," 24/3/55.)

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Jamaican Movement

IT has been announced that the founding conference of the People's Freedom Movement will take place on Saturday, April 30th, and Sunday, May 1st.

The P.F.M. was started six months prior to general elections in Jamaica, and stood two candidates with a programme for radical social and economic advancement for the Jamaican people.

The Movement publishes a paper called "Freedom."

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

May ★ ★ 1955

Guiana Workers against bosses' union

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION which was sent to British Guiana following the revocation of the Constitution by the Tory Government devoted several pages of its report to the trade union movement. Its main preoccupation was with regard to the workers engaged in the sugar industry, more

By ASHTON CHASE

than 75 per cent of whom are supporters of the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union (G.I.W.U.), which is not recognised by the Sugar Producers' Association. The recognised union is the Manpower Citizens' Association (M.P.C.A.)—a weak and vacillating body.

The Commission finds that the G.I.W.U. is a breakaway union and therefore holds that according to traditional standards it should not be supported. The Commission insinuates that the leadership of this

continued on page 3

Mr. Ashton Chase is the former Minister of Labour in the P.P.P. Government of Guiana, and is secretary, B.G. Labour Union

Honduran women oppose horror comics

BELIZE, British Honduras, City Council has agreed to send to the Central Government a request by the Honduras Federation of Women to find out if crime and horror comics could be banned under the Undesirable Literature Ordinance of 1954.

The Council also passed an amendment expressing its support for the resolution.

MORE TELEPHONES FOR ST. LUCIA

CASTRIES.

AT an estimated cost of $33,000, St. Lucia's telephone switchboard capacity is to be increased from 200 instruments to a total of 450 instruments. It is estimated the project will be completed in six months. More Lucians will then be saying "Hello."

Vincentian Cane Cutters in Action

From Alma Johnson

KINGSTOWN, February 15th (delayed).

THE Mt. Bentinck workers have again struck for recognition of their union. The cane cutters on this score are making a wage demand of 84 cents per ton for cutting canes.

Mt. Bentinck Estates Ltd. are sole producers of sugar in the island of St. Vincent. This company is managed by all the big planters and estate owners, who deny any trade union representation for their workers. By a well-calculated plan of victimisation and exploitation, the Mt. Bentinck succeeds in bringing off their cane crops every year.

The wages paid on the island are the lowest paid to workers in the whole of the West Indies. For the past three cane crops there were disputes between the management of these estates and the workers because of the very low wages paid to the latter. This time the 1954-55 crop is no exception.

The estates have again shown their determination to defy the workers and the union of their choice, and to deny them a living wage despite the huge profits made during 1952, 1953, and 1954.

The strike of cane cutters is now approaching its third week. The general manager of the company, after a wave of correspondence, met the president of

continued on page 5

★ EDITORIAL ★

No Freedom of Movement

WEST INDIAN Federation, Colonial Office style, is being worked out true to form—nothing but a bigger Crown Colony, as "Caribbean News" has indicated time and again.

Undoubtedly, local politicians will be gratified with their positions in the Federal Government, and will swell out with pride at the thought of being looked upon as slightly more dignified pawns in British imperialism's system of rule over our people—this rule which puts so much profit into the hands of the foreign money bags, as shown the hands of the foreign moneyb—ags, as shown in our previous issue.

Though Federation should bring unity to the Caribbean, nevertheless underlying all the talks and conferences has been the struggle and rivalry between these lower ranks of "rulers," contending each to put his respective territory in the limelight with the most privileged position, even at the expense of others.

For a long time now, small-minded politicians in Trinidad have been trying to keep out West Indians from other territories like Jamaica and Barbados.

They claim to be protecting Trinidad from being flooded with unemployed workers. But their short-sightedness is the same as that of those people in Britain who are now raising the same question over West Indian workers coming to look for work.

But these people are looking in the wrong direction and completely missing the boat, as they don't seem to see that the united struggle of all the workers is necessary to maintain and improve their conditions.

And the same pig-headed attitude by West Indian politicians is the sure way of getting nowhere fast.

The latest development in the Federation story is that the Conference on Inter-migration has recommended that restrictions on travel be removed "as far as possible," but each unit can make its own regulations subject to being passed by both Houses of the Federal Legislature, which does not alter the situation much.

Significantly, however, the Conference recommended the retention of bans for "security and health" reasons. So the position will remain the same in relation to travel between the units of militant trade unionists, politicians, and others whom the bosses fear.

This, above all, emphasises the servile state in which we are to remain and exposes the hollowness of this great Federation.

For, applied to a supposedly unified nation, these bans are but the equivalent of the restrictive zoning under the Emergency Regulations in Guiana.

Is this a step forward or backward?

Is our West Indian Federation to be just a bigger version of the Guiana model of the Police State?

Protect us from our guardians

TALKING about "security," we learn—as reported on this page—that Trinidadians are going to pay out $700,000 every year towards the cost of a new West India Regiment. Other West Indians will also be paying about 1 per cent of annual revenue for . . . for what?

Now let's see—what hordes threaten to attack us and destroy our "liberties"? Can it possibly be that the money will be spent to safeguard the security of Guianese against the British troops stationed there? . . . But no, you don't expect the imperialists to be such fools, of course not.

Then the only reasons for the existence of the British West India Regiment would be to see that West Indians don't decide to take over their country, and as an adjunct to the British rulers for use in their wars.

In any case, it seems that we are to pay to keep our country secure **for** foreign rule and exploitation.

And just think what $700,000 a year could do if spent in the interests of Trinidad's working people.

For one thing it could provide about 350 dwellings at $2,000 each. And how about some "development"?

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Trinidad Cement Workers Take Note

From our Financial Wizard

THE City Editors of the London national Press went all agog on the last day of February. These apologists for capitalist exploitation whooped with joy at the very cunning move by Mr. Halford Reddish, big boss of RUGBY PORTLAND CEMENT. He is reported to have allotted 500,000 shares to his 1,200 employees.

Are Trinidadian workers included? You know the outfit there which is supported by British Government capital, known as the Colonial Development Corporation.

In that amazing building (or so they would let us believe) in London called the Stock Exchange, the shares referred to above, which have a nominal value of 1s. each and are known as "A" Shares, are now reported to fetch 25s. each.

This place in Throgmorton Street deals in millions and millions of pounds, literally at the stroke of a pen. They buy and sell from each other stocks and shares in rubber, oil, tin, timber, chemicals, engineering, etc., and **cement**. Don't get the idea that these people work at digging, watering, hammering, planning, designing, or machine-operating or any other useful job; no, fellows, we do the work!

SITTING PRETTY

Trinidadian workers dig the cement, Trinidadian accountants check quantities and pay cash, Trinidadian workers drive and load trucks, Trinidadian, British, Indian, Chinese seamen ship the product. But we stay poor and they go rich. I now learn that the Reddish workers, by virtue of their reported ownership of the Reddish "A" Shares, are alleged to "own" £312 10s. of capital.

So now says the "Daily Express" correspondent (28/2/55): "It makes all Rugby workers capitalists. . . ." Okay, you boys in San Fernando, you should be sitting pretty—write and let me know, won't you?

SUGAR IS STILL NEWS

—ask Mr. G. Vernon Tate, M.C., Chairman, WEST INDIES SUGAR COMPANY.

"We have had another successful year. . . ."

That is, **net** profits rose by £44,294 up to £388,573. This, of course, arises from underpaying the JAMAICAN sugar workers for their labour. Even further, in this complex age of politicians buying trade union support, the Bustamante leadership is exposed by Mr. Tate, who cheerily reminds his fellow shareholders that the **excess profits levy** was abolished from December 31st, 1953. He had even put aside £122,000 for this tax, but now that's all "bunce" or "braater" for the sugar barons.

How much the sugar workers could have done with this!

Things go so well for TATE that he has put 25 per cent of the interest in the new shipping company. SUGAR LINE LIMITED, who are building six ships for carrying sugar **cargoes.**

Simultaneously with all this good news of capitalist plunder, the foreign exploiters are confronted with their own international cartels, which **limit** production in order to maintain high market prices. Tate refers to the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, and states: "Jamaica's production, including our own, will have to be **limited.**"

No better proof that these infidels can make **no** claim to organising or maintaining industry or agriculture in this modern age.

What about it, trade unionists?

. . . AND AGAIN

—ask the Managing Director of JAMAICA SUGAR ESTATES.

Profits have gone up £10,886 to £125,765.

They only paid out an Ordinary dividend of 7 per cent **tax free,** which is £7 given to every shareholder who held £100 shares.

But one might ask: "Why not more?"—the cash is there. Well, they know a lot more about accounting than most of us. Look—this year they put £20,000 to what is called **General Reserve.** What's this?

Well, the announcement is that the Directors are applying to the CAPITAL ISSUES COMMITTEE for permission to make a "scrip issue" of Ordinary Shares on a one-for-one basis. In everyday language for you and me, all these spare funds put to reserve have accumulated sufficiently to give each and every shareholder, **free,** the same amount of shares he already held again. This is all **tax free**! Had they paid it out in dividends annually, it would have been liable to income tax.

See what the nation has lost?—that's you and me.

JAMAICA OIL SELL-OUT

MONTEGO BAY (April): For the first time in history, OIL prospecting in JAMAICA is in full swing.

Basemetals of Montreal, Canada, started off at Negril Point and have other carefully selected spots for immediate attack.

The Manley team of puppets now sitting in the Elected Assembly are rushing through legislation to compel landowners, large and small, to sell land to these Americans and American-backed Canadians. Many Jamaicans see the ominous shadow of the ravenous eagle robbing us of our land; some, more mercenary, are only holding back in search of higher prices. These people are the stumbling-block in the grand sell-out.

Little did Jamaicans and other West Indians realise that this was to be the outcome of election promises of a Geological Survey. This is the "development" the P.N.P. way!

LETTER BOX

My Desire

Dear Editor,

Your letter and "News" of the 3rd arrived safely, and I must say how happy I am to have the issue of March-April; and more, also, that if I only agree I will be able to have my desire—the annual issue.

I am also thankful for extra suggestions as a critic, and I regard my paper as my mouthpiece.

Again I say thanks for this paper that I was just longing for.

Enclosed please find 6s. for an annual subscription.

Hertfordshire Nurse.

* * *

Like the new reader above, several new subscriptions have come in for "Caribbean News" in recent weeks. Why don't **you** take one also, and get your paper regularly post free?—Editor.

Guns before Butter

TRINIDAD'S contribution towards the formation of a British West India Regiment will be about $700,000 annually, representing 1 per cent of the Colony's annual revenue. Other participating Governments will also contribute 1 per cent of their annual revenue.

This decision was agreed by the Finance Committee when studying proposals for the formation of a West India Regiment. The proposals call for a first battalion of four companies to be formed by reconstituting the existing Jamaica Regiment, three of which will be stationed in Jamaica and the other in British Honduras; the second battalion will comprise three companies to be recruited locally and will be stationed in Trinidad, with one company in the Windward Islands.

The War Office will exercise control of the local force, which will be recruited with officers and men from all the participating Colonies, and the regiment will be organised as a mixed West Indian force. It is stated that at the initial stages the War Office will second several officers to the new force. (From Trinidad Information Office Bulletin.)

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Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

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Greet Youth with Friendship and Laughter

At the Festival you will meet young people like these, from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany — and from over a hundred other countries besides

"A GREAT and joyful meeting between youths throughout the world, it was unforgettable for most of us, but for me it was the most thrilling experience of my life. . . .' Thus said Irma Hillaire, delegate from the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council to the Fourth World Youth Festival in Bucharest.

And this is what a young Guianese, Carlton Bayley, had to say: "The thing that impressed me most at the Festival was the Rumanians' approach to a black man, hospitable and sweet, not as if he was an inferior being or savage, not with frowning looks or hateful eyes, not with shameful steps nor

By TREVOR CARTER

with the approach of brutish Fascism, as experienced by many of us in England, America, and South Africa; but with a humanitarian approach that could only be displayed by nations which stand for peace and friendship the world over.'

In this year's Festival in Warsaw lies the opportunity for us West Indians to live through the remarkable experiences of Carlton Bayley and Irma Hillaire. There is also the chance of taking part in the sporting and cultural competitions.

The Youth and Student Committee of the C.L.C. (L.B.) has recently formed a song and dance group. This group is going to bring to youth at the Festival calypsos and dances of the West Indies. Students will have the chance of meeting others in their field.

If we can just take a brief glimpse into the future, and see ourselves being greeted by the Polish youth with hands outstretched in friendship, shining eyes, words and laughter. If we can see ourselves in the beautiful parks, magnificent stadiums, cultural palaces, theatres, and movies, making friends and exchanging greetings with young people from China, Africa, the Soviet Union, India, and from every other imaginable country.

Today more than ever we need the comradeshp that the Festival offers. As Colonials it is heartening to us to know that we are not isolated in our struggle to throw off the yoke of imperialism.

Apart from the gaiety and enjoyment, world peace is the main aim of the Festival. We West Indians sometimes take a very dim view on world peace we fail to see its importance. Those of us who think we are safe should remember the American guided-missile bases in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Trinidad, and St. Lucia. We should remember that in this era of nuclear weapons and the H-bomb the existence of mankind on the whole is threatened.

Strike a blow

Therefore, by supporting the aims of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, under whose auspices the 5th World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship is held, you will be striking not only a blow against the British and American warmongers, but against our hated imperial masters, thus quickening our achievement of National Independence.

The Festival will be taking place from July 31st to August 14th. The fee for this splendid holiday is £33 for three weeks and £29 for two weeks. For further details write the Youth Organiser, C.L.C. (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

* * *

West Indian representative, St. Kitts-born Chris Birch, was nominated by the British Festival Committee as the British representative to the International Preparatory Festival Committee. He and his wife, Betty, and his 14-month-old son, Frank, left England during the early part of April to start this important work.

TRADE UNION STRUGGLE

from page 1

union has no interest in the industry or in the industrial welfare of the workers; and that since it supports the People's Progressive Party (P.P.P.) it is merely an instrument of that body.

What are the facts? The M.P.C.A. was established in the late 30's to represent sugar workers who had hitherto been organised in the B.G. Labour Union, a general union. After some time, it was recognised by the Sugar Producers' Association and entered into agreements on behalf of the workers. Its short record of service is marred by a number of sell-outs to the bosses. Time and again the workers' rights have been compromised; their legitimate claims backpedalled; and their grievances ignored. Dissatisfaction in the union was rife. Its membership fell to such a low figure that it was really not representative of the workers in the industry. Dissatisfaction among the workers in the industry was widespread. Their wages were, and still are, miserably low; housing conditions, sanitation, conditions of labour, and welfare leave much to be desired.

BOSSES' BOYS

However, so long as a leadership subservient to the employers can be maintained in a union, the employers are prepared to recognise and deal with that union. It is clear that their recognition of the union is dependent upon the leadership being one that they could twiddle with their thumbs. Nine years ago, when the waterfront workers elected a militant leadership, the shippers (of sugar) withdrew their recognition of the union. Thus, such is the state of recognition of workers' rights in the Colony that the employers had the effrontery to tell the waterfront workers who should be their leaders.

Efforts were made within the M.P.C.A. to have its leadership changed. All efforts foundered. The fact is that the rules of this organisation were highly undemocratic, and it was impossible under its Constitution to effect a change in leadership. For example, the president and secretary of the union were elected by the district officers, who were appointed by the president and secretary. Consequently, district officials were removed from office as soon as they proved untrustworthy, and only those on whom the leading officers could rely to vote them back into office held posts at election time.

It was frustration over the efforts to change the leadership from within the union and the horrible conditions within the industry that led to the formation of the G.I.W.U. six years ago. It is true that some of the more undemocratic features of the rules of the M.P.C.A. have now been removed and it may be possible to secure a change from within. But these changes are very recent. Only one election has been held under them for the office of secretary. So much bitterness has developed in the meantime between the two organisations, and the workers have come to regard the M.P.C.A. as a stooge or scab union, that it is impossible at this late hour to influence the workers to join the M.P.C.A. Moreover, it is known that the M.P.C.A. has accepted financial help from the sugar magnates!

No one denies that breakaway unions are bad, but in circumstances such as these there is no alternative.

WORKERS' INTERESTS

The accusation that the leadership of the G.I.W.U. has no interest in the industrial welfare of the workers is grossly unfair. Their interest is the very foundation out of which the union was born for industrial purposes. It is true that the president is a medical practitioner, but he isn't from a family of medical practitioners or professionals. His family roots are in the sugar industry, and so also are those of any other officers who may not be directly working in the sugar industry.

Two other important replies should be made in response to this malicious charge: One, in dealing with trained industrialists, the weaker arms of our movement require some help. Further, to assume leadership of a trade union in British Guiana exposes the workers to victimisation. The history of our trade union movement is replete with cases of workers who have suffered from victimisation and other unfair labour practices for taking a leading role in their trade unions.

In some cases — for instance among municipal workers—the employees are not permitted to make representations during working hours, even though the union undertakes to pay for the time off. Only when the employees feel they should be on a deputation are they permitted time off. The second point (and this is in answer to defenders of the M.P.C.A.) is that the M.P.C.A. itself is officered, and has been officered ever since, by men who are not actively engaged in the sugar industry. Lawyers have held the office of president of this "union," and its present president is a high-school teacher.

CONFIDENCE

There is hardly need to say much about the connection between the G.I.W.U. and the P.P.P. The G.I.W.U. proudly and rightly supports the P.P.P., which is the only working-class party in the Colony. The accusation against the G.I.W.U. is similar to the Tory accusation against the Labour Party, which has the support of the trade union movement here. The workers in British Guiana recognise the close tie between the struggle for better living standards and the struggle against colonialism.

One thing is clear even to defenders of the company union (M.P.C.A.), and that is the workers' support for the G.I.W.U. They have full confidence in their union. They have shown their support by demonstrating their solidarity in strike struggles to win recognition. Despite these facts, however, the M.P.C.A. receives financial help from the I.C.F.T.U. and is now to get further help from the British T.U.C. No help, however, can wipe out its bad and unhappy past, or cause a break in the workers' unity and confidence in the G.I.W.U.

It is even possible in today's circumstances of intense intimidation and wholesale dismissals. the nominal membership of the M.P.C.A. is greater than that of the G.I.W.U. One must add also that the M.P.C.A. includes workers other than sugar workers —for example, a handful of ricefield workers and general workers—although the G.I.W.U. entirely specialises in the sugar industry. Should the figures even give a predominance to M.P.C.A., the successful strike on eleven of the largest estates for nine weeks is of sufficient proof to show which way a plebiscite would weigh, should the opportunity for one be given by the sugar barons.

A free plebiscite in the industry will show where the faith of the workers lies. Such a plebiscite has been called for on more than one occasion, but because the results will obviously be in favour of a union whose leadership is above bribery and corruption, it has never been held. So the struggle goes on.

'INDUSTRY CANNOT PAY'

From our TRINIDAD Reporter

A BOARD OF INQUIRY has been announced by Governor Rance, after consultation with the Colonial Office, to go into the dispute between the Federation of Unions of Cane Farmers and Sugar Workers, and the Sugar Manufacturers' Association. The employers are contending that the demands on manufacturers would cost $17 million, which they claim the industry cannot pay.

The union's case is based on sugar and its by-products. The Board of Inquiry includes Dr. D. T. Jack, member of the Independent Industrial Disputes Tribunal in the U.K., and Mr. A. I. Espley and Mr. G. B. Thorneycroft, representing employers and workers respectively.

SECRET REFORM

The West Indian Independence Party has protested to the Constitution Reform Committee against the holding of its meetings in secret and has asked the Committee to reconsider and reverse its decision. We are reliably informed that the decision was taken by a 21–8 majority of the heavily nominated Committee on a motion from elected Hon. A. P. T. James, Vice-President of the Trinidad Labour Party. The other T.L.P. member of the Committee, elected Hon. R. Quevedo, refrained from voting.

YOUTH PREPARE

The Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council convened its first Preparatory Committee in connection with the 5th World Festival of Youth and Students on Sunday, March 20th. Its decisions will be communicated to the International Festival Preparatory Committee.

* * *

'First Coloured Priest'

REV. DR. MARCUS JAMES, a Jamaican, has been appointed diocesan chaplain in Birmingham. Dr. James was formerly associate chaplain to Anglican students at London University.

"Christian Action," of which Dr. James is a Council member, issued a statement saying:

"It is the first time a coloured priest has been appointed to the post of diocesan chaplain in the English Church. In Birmingham, where there have been racial difficulties recently, it will be regarded as evidence of the Church's opposition to racial intolerance."

* * *

NEW SERVICE LINKS ST. KITTS

The s.s. "West Indian" (formerly "Wingsang"), of the West Indies Navigation Co. Ltd., will commence her first voyage from Trinidad on the 20th inst. She will proceed via the Islands and is due at St. Kitts on the 27th inst., sailing the same day direct for Jamaica. On her southbound voyage she will call at St. Kitts on February 3rd.

Messrs. H. F. Wildy & Co. Ltd. are the local agents. ("The Democrat.")

Corrections

The following printers' errors should be noted in the March-April issue of "Caribbean News":

On page 4—" My Fabulous Jewels," by Billy Strachan:

1. Read " Oil moguls had secured exploration leases for a marine area of 900,000 acres (Trinidad)—instead of 9 million.

2. Guiana produces 240,000 tons of sugar, not a million as stated.

3. Jamaica and Guiana are estimated to have 90 per cent of the bauxite deposits in the capitalist world—not 9 per cent as stated.

SAVE THIS WOMAN'S LIFE

THE life of a West Indian woman is in danger in the political prison of the United States. An appeal issued by the Women's International Democratic Federation says:

William L. Patterson, General Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, has addressed an urgent appeal to the W.I.D.F. and the women of the world to save the life of Claudia Jones, outstanding Negro woman leader, who has been sentenced to one year in prison for her active leadership for the rights of women and for peace. Mr. Patterson says in part:

"A helpless political prisoner, victim of the Smith Act, Claudia Jones, is seriously ill in the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, Virginia (U.S.A.). Antedated by arrested tuberculosis, she suffers from congestive heart attack, asthma, high blood pressure, and more recently from severe headaches, a new symptom. These conditions are attested to by her physician, confirmed by tests made in a New York hospital. She does not get the salt-free diet mandatory for her condition.

Protest

"If Claudia Jones dies in prison, not only will American justice be sullied with a deep, ineradicable stain, but to tolerate the consummation of such a crime will be an everlasting reproach to everyone who, aware of this tragic possibility, maintains an unprotesting silence."

The W.I.D.F. has sent a cablegram of protest to the Hon. Herbert Brownell, Attorney-General of the U.S.A., Washington, D.C., against this "cruel punishment," demanding in the name of 140 million in 67 countries that "danger to her life be removed by suspending her sentence, and that she be permitted to apply for an exit visa to her native British West Indies."

The W.I.D.F. calls upon all women and women's organisations to protest and help save the life of Claudia Jones.

Claudia Jones is from Trinidad, and we urge all West Indians to send their protests to the American Embassy, calling for the release of this heroic daughter of our people. and her return to her homeland.

Carnival

THIS year, Carnival was again celebrated in Trinidad with a splash of colour, tunes, costumes, steel bands—the lot.

February 21st and 22nd were the two days when Trinidadians let themselves loose in the streets, squares, and parks in the traditional masquerade of a really people's holiday.

"Carnival Queen of 1955" was to be chosen from among 15 contestants, and the "Queen" chosen was 18-year-old Miss Angela Graham, and among the prizes awarded her was a Hillman Californian car. She was then expected to go on a "publicity tour" of Canada.

Chosen as the "Band of the Year" in South Trinidad were the Hatters, portraying the "World's Peace Conference," in which were represented the world's chief statesmen from both East and West.

* * *

DUBIOUS GIFT

THE United States Government today announced a gift of $9,000,000 to Britain to help her to buy United States surplus stocks of fresh citrus and tinned fruits. ("Manchester Guardian," 12/4/55.)

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Peacemongers??
Cultural Groups???

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BOOK WORLD

West Indian Citrus Industry

"Report of Fact-Finding Mission"
Col. No. 314 (1955)
Her Majesty's Stationery Office—4s.

FOR how much longer must we tolerate this super-humbug?

The British Tory Government appointed five men and provided a secretary "to examine the present organisation and future plans and prospects of the West Indian citrus industry . . . in particular the costs. . . ."

Glancing back through "Caribbean News," one sees in the July, 1954, issue, "Under the spreading Citrus Tree," just why our citrus production remains a dead duck; and if we kick against the imperial master, he weakly replies that he did not want to be wicked, but had to sign the **Economic Co-operative Agreement** of April 16th, 1948. In brief, we are paying for the aid (?) that crippled Britain bought!

Britain agreed with others to use $250,000,000 for "surplus agricultural commodities, or products thereof, in the U.S.A."

Are we poor?

No matter how the story spreads that West Indians cannot compete for a variety of reasons, we know the truth.

So why the lying propaganda?

We have to be continuously told how poor, how weak, how backward we really are. The problem is that even if some tub-thumping politicians like Manley, Gomes and others are willing to run to bend their knee, millions are shouting for our freedom, our **independence.**

This report on the citrus industry admits that Jamaica's annual production alone will be 2,310,000 boxes of sweet oranges and 300,000 boxes of grapefruit by 1959. That's a mere million pounds sterling or W.I. $4,200,000 (at today's prices)!

And to show that somebody is relying on this, one might refer to Sir Robert Barlow, of the Metal Box Co. Ltd. Since 1951 he set up a plant there without enticement, just to produce the basis for packaging and shipping oranges and grapefruit. Craftier, even, in paragraph 212 the report tells us that "application has also been made for pioneer status to manufacture polythene taping for banana wraps."

"Pioneer status" is a term used to cover the legislation passed by West Indian politicians in subservience to Britain which permits income tax and Customs duty relief or exemption for foreign business men who want to come in and **take out.**

The report is a hotch-potch of very badly worded and compiled facts on our economic possibilities in **agriculture.**

Mr. J. C. Gardiner, F.C.A., the Tories' handyman on this occasion, is going to be in trouble with Sir James Robertson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.

Who's Kidding

Robertson, less than six months ago, in the **British Guiana Constitutional Commission** (Cmd. 9274) said in paragraph 21:

> "Many brought to our notice the struggle for livelihood in conditions of unemployment and under-employment; the squalor of much of the housing; the scarcity of agricultural land. . . ."

Gardiner in February, 1955, finds the problem of a West Indian capitalist in the citrus industry is "faced with a high level of costs, arising primarily from the relatively high standard of living enjoyed by the peoples of the West Indian territories, when compared with the native population of many other tropical countries."

What a comparison!

Why do West Indians outnumber other Colonies emigrating?

The more they talk, the deeper these masters of double-talk enmesh themselves; and this report, far from succeeding in what it obviously aimed to do, will be relegated to the archives of a dying system of colonialism.

The only valid sentence was in paragraph 19, sub-section (d), which said: "In the event of American citrus fruit and the fruit products becoming freely available in the U.K. market, West Indian produce seems likely to be driven out of that market."

Whoa! to the worshippers of the Yankee dollars! All hail to the fighters for independence, peace, and real prosperity!

Billy Strachan

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cuban workers win

THE workers of the big Delicias and Chapanra sugar concerns—owned by the powerful U.S. company, Cuban American Sugar—went on strike in the middle of November following the arbitrary dismissal of 300 workers in violation of an agreement signed between the company and the union. Their united action, backed by all the people, went on for a number of weeks and was conducted in two stages: first, for the reinstatement of the workers, and then, when the company agreed to take them back to work on the night shift, for a 50 per cent wage increase for the workers reinstated—an increase corresponding to night-work rates as required by the labour legislation.

Despite savage police repression (occupation of trade union offices, arrest of leaders, attempts to force the workers back to work, etc.), the strike was successful and ranks as a major event in the struggle of the Cuban working class during the last few years.

Hunger in Tunisia

UNEMPLOYMENT is reaching disturbing proportions in Tunisia. Out of a total population of 3,500,000, nearly 600,000 are unemployed.

In textile mills, brickyards, especially at the Belaish and Gozlan firms, in the Koskas and Abitol, and Stim flour mills, dismissals are increasing. As a result of mechanised farming, more than half the agricultural labour force has been sacked. The mining companies' decision to increase work tasks has caused a large number of miners to be dismissed.

Tunisian workers come en masse to funeral of victim of colonial repression

Everywhere the unemployed are organising to defend their right to work. Big demonstrations outside the offices of the local authorities have taken place in Tunis and other towns, involving hundreds and sometimes thousands of unemployed workers.

In Tunis and its suburbs, unemployed workers, completely without resources for weeks, seized loaves of bread in the bakery shops. This also happened in Souk el Arba, where the police used tear gas, and in other places.

DOCKERS IN KENYA VICTORIOUS

ON March 3rd, 7,000 African dock workers in the port of Mombasa struck work. They were joined by another 3,000 workers in oil companies, a brewery, a transport firm, an aluminium firm, and in the power station.

This strike for higher wages and against the increased cost of living, taking place in the present conditions in Kenya with the British colonial powers waging a brutal war of extermination against the local population, is a heroic action. The strike was unofficial, since the employers refuse to recognise the dock workers' union. The demand was for 2s. a day increase.

After six days, during which a number of arrests were made and troops and police were flown into the area, the dockers returned to work on the basis of an interim offer of 6d. a day increase and a promise that their full demand would go to arbitration.

(Two-thirds of the African dockers get only £1 a week for a 50 to 54-hour week. Even the best paid get only £1 15s. a week.)

Why the P.P.P. split

CHEDDI JAGAN sent this in reply to our request for a personal account of the split in the People's Progressive Party. — Editor

THE news of the P.P.P. split coming so soon after the dastardly act of the British Government must have been both shocking and distressing. The question probably uppermost in the minds of people is why it happened and how it happened.

Opportunism is the basis of the split. Despite the demagogy of L. F. Burnham, Dr. Lachhmansingh, and J. N. Singh about the struggle for national independence, etc., they have proved in this crisis that they are not prepared to make any sacrifices.

By his actions it is clear L. F. Burnham wanted at all costs to be leader of the Party. Once before he nearly precipitated a split. That was at the time of the selection of Ministers after the general elections, with his gauntlet of "leader or nothing." And while he was writing in the "Tribune" about breaking the restrictions and following me to prison, his followers were spreading propaganda to the effect that I was stupid to have done so.

SELF-IMPOSED

Dr. J. P. Lachhmansingh, president of the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, fearing detention, placed on himself a self-imposed restriction on his movements. He entered politics at the age of 50, after he had been defeated (with lost deposit) in 1947.

He was expelled from the Party in 1950 for agreeing to head another party about to be formed by the then secretary of the T.U.C. The bait was the admission of the G.I.W.U. into the T.U.C. and aid for recognition from the sugar planters.

Jai Narine Singh also lost his deposit at the 1947 election, when I was a successful candidate He jumped lately on the P.P.P. bandwagon. As a Minister, he voted with us while in office to remove the bans on entry into Guiana of six West Indians. After the suspension of the Constitution, and when five militant leaders were detained, he voted to reimpose the bans. (We were relieved of our portfolios, but were technically still members of the Executive Council.)

But what, above all, alarmed them was the report of the Robertson Constitution Commission. Its principal recommendation was an "indefinite period of marking time." This they regarded as the "end of the line," as a period of hard work and sacrifices, which they were unwilling to make, and as a block to their resuming ministerial office.

UNREPRESENTATIVE

Taking the cue from the Robertson Commission, "so long as the present leadership and policies continue, there is no way in which any real measure of self-government can be restored in British Guiana," they railroaded at a depleted Executive Council meeting, at a time when prominent members were either imprisoned or restricted, a decision to hold a Congress of **members in Georgetown.**

Georgetown is the area where Burnham is strongest, and it is to be noted that in our country modes of transport are both difficult and expensive. Therefore, a members' Congress held there is not truly representative. This decision was contrary to the Constitution of the Party and a resolution passed at the last Congress in 1953. The main slogan of those wanting the Congress was: "Hold Party Congress, throw out extremists, have general elections."

To avert a split it was finally decided to call instead a Special Conference for the main purpose of amend-

(continued on page 6)

Less Money for Vincentian Farmers

THE Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union is making a move to protect cane farmers and the price they get for canes (writes our St. Vincent correspondent).

The price for a ton of canes in St. Vincent is the lowest in the B.W.I. It is placed as low as $10.50 up to the 1954 crop. As usual, the smaller peasants, who were always used as weapons against the workers to start cutting canes without any consideration as to the value of canes, were given notices to cut. The Mt. Bentinck made a reduction to cane farmers of 50 cents per ton on an already small price without informing the peasants of this reduction.

The first indication they had of this was when claims were issued for payment. There is rife dissatisfaction among the cane farmers—a dissatisfaction in which the Government disclaims any responsibility.

While it appears to us that it is orthodox British Government that rules us, a sad impression is ever before our eyes that this is Estate Plantation rule. To be truthful, from these happenings we liken our Government to a vast estate managed by the despotism of the estates and the whims and fancies of their owners.

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Vincentian Cane Cutters in Action

from page 1

the union for talks yesterday, with the Labour Commissioner in attendance. The president, the Hon. E. T. Joshua, immediately conveyed the results of the conference to the committee of the workers, which went into all-night session to consider the discussions.

It was clear that the management is reluctant in meeting the pay claim of the workers to an 18 cents per ton increase, but the manager refrained from committing the company as to their offer. The workers decided to stand up for their claim.

P.P.P. Split

from page 5

ing the rules to permit election of members of the General Council by individual membership balloting in each constituency. The Emergency Order prohibits the holding of meetings and therefore the proper functioning of Party groups, election of delegates, etc.

Burnham, however, as Chairman of the Special Conference, deviated from the agenda and permitted the suspension of the standing rules and orders, a vote of no confidence in the Executive, and election of an Interim General Council.

As one columnist writing for the "Daily Chronicle" said, it was done "by a low rabbit punch which was intentionally delivered below the belt by the Moderates after both sides, having agreed, as men, to fight according to the terms of a fixed agenda, had signed on the dotted line."

The Editor of the "Daily Argosy," another big business paper, put it this way: ". . . The Jagans and their familiars were ousted from their positions of power by a series of planned moves ending in a neatly executed double-cross, which left them no choice but to get out or accept the mere crumbs of office."

TACTICS

We for our part will continue our struggle for national independence. Burnham, of course, will say the same thing. His policy is no different from ours, he says; the only difference is the question of tactics. In fact, his group, like others, has resorted to a witch-hunting campaign.

But tactics for what purpose, to what end? For getting back our Constitution, for gaining national independence, he asserts. He has failed to learn the Lyttelton doctrine and the lesson of Guatemala: that the British and U.S. imperialists will permit us to rule only if we rule in their interests.

I, for one, am not interested in any such proposition, in any such rule. The struggle goes on.

Grenada Taximen

GRENADIANS who drive taxis and motor transport have at long last organised themselves into a trade union to protect their interests.

It is called the Grenada Taxi and Motor Transport Drivers' Union, and is "for those persons who drive taxis and other vehicles plying for hire. Its officers are all persons directly engaged in this trade."

President is Mr. Cleophas Peters; Vice-President, Mr. Joseph Charles; and Secretary, Mr. Allan Greasley.

SPORTS

Football tour

THE grand display of the Trinidad Football XI which toured England in 1953 is surely the main reason for the powerful team selected by the F.A. of England to tour the West Indies this month.

The tour would be more of educational value to West Indian football than competitive.

TALKING POINTS ON SPORT
by Trevor Carter

Here's to hoping that emerging from this tour will be the consolidation of West Indian football unity.

* * *

SYLBERT "SHAY" SEYMOUR, one of the members of the Trinidad football team that toured England in 1953, is doing well as a professional with the Poole Town F.C. Shay's aggressive style is a great asset to his team's successes this year.

One critic had this to say: "This brilliant West Indian, who traded the sunny Caribbean for the damp climate of England, has put punch into the attack. We are glad to have him."

Pompey & Ramadhin

YOLANDE POMPEY and Sonny Ramadhin recently got married in England. Yolande Pompey, high-ranking contender for the world light-heavyweight title, married a Jamaican girl. He may fight Bermuda's Eddie "Polly" Smith in an elimination contest on the 9th of this month to get a crack at Randy Turpin, holder of the British Empire light-heavyweight title. Sonny Ramadhin, presently one of the world's most famous spin bowlers, married an English girl. Sonny is now representing the West Indies against Australia in the West Indies.

High Scorer

SIMPSON GUILLEN, Trinidad and West Indies wicketkeeper, now living in New Zealand, is chalking up some good scores there. He recently hit up 179 not out, playing against Old Boys, the champions, in one of New Zealand's club competitions. Judging from his constant scoring, Simpson surely could have represented New Zealand against England in the recent Test series, had it not been for a law which debars him until he has had four seasons.

NOTE THIS DATE

West Indians and friends are reminded that the A.G.M. of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London) will be held on Sunday, June 26th, at 2.30 p.m., at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

LEAGUE

THE League of Coloured Peoples Ltd. held its Annual General Meeting at its premises at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1, on Thursday, March 31st.

Outgoing President Mr. Julian Compton regretted that he was unable to offer himself for re-election owing to pressure of other commitments.

Mr. Billy Strachan is the new President.

CRICKET REVIEW

THE first Test ended in defeat for West Indies at Kingston, Jamaica. The Australians, who batted to a draw with Jamaica in their previous match, won by 9 wickets in the Test.

Apart from Walcott's 108 and 39, Smith was the only outstanding batsman, making 44 and 103. Other West Indies star bats did not shine. Lack of form and temperament among such players may be a good reason for the reorganisation of the team for the second Test in Trinidad.

Highlight of the Jamaica-Australia match was J. Smith's 169 and Binns's 151; Australia's A. R. Morris's 157, and C. McDonald's 73.

We still have great hopes in West Indies batsmen, and the match in Trinidad proves that we can expect big things from West Indies.

Scores of 57 and 150 not out by H. Furlonge and 95 by Jeff Stollmeyer show that better batting form is necessary for a West Indies victory.

But if there is a setback to West Indies cricket, the lack of, or failure to produce, a good pair of fast bowlers could be the reason. Young Frank King is the only fast bowler in the West Indies Test team today.

The second Test at Port of Spain, Trinidad, ended in a draw. In their first innings, West Indies were all out for 382 runs. Both Walcott and Weekes made centuries. Worrell did not play.

Australia in reply made 600 for 9 declared in their first innings; Miller, Morris, and McDonald made centuries against ineffective bowling.

When the game ended, the West Indies had scored 204 for the loss of four second innings wickets.

Carlton Bailey

We regret that, owing to shortage of space, the third article examining the problems of Federation by Billy Strachan has had to be held over until the next issue.—Editor.

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TWO WAY PROCESS.—For some time now, West Indians have been returning home after a period of stay in Britain. This has not, however, been given the publicity as the incoming Jamaicans. "The Times" reported on May 27th, that as 739 West Indians steped ashore from the Italian liner "Auriga," arriving at Plymouth from Jamaica, they passed 20 other West Indians waiting to leave by the same ship for Jamaica.

The report referred to two brothers, who had been in Britain for three years, but could not get work in their trade as working jewellers, so they became crane drivers at a Sheffield steel works. They found the ice, snow and fog too much for them, and were looking forward to being back home in the warm sunshine within a fortnight, together with their wives and children.

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

June-July ★ ★ 1955

TRINIDAD CARNIVAL DISPLAY

CARNIVAL is the biggest annual festivity in Trinidad, Land of the Humming Bird, falling in the two days just before lent, when the gayest and most colourful costumes can be seen. Bands and "Masks" portraying almost every conceivable type of representation, are on display, after tireless work preparing the costumes during the year. Prizes are awarded at the end. Our picture shows the Quo Vadis band, depicting soldiers of ancient Rome.

Jamaicans Already Being Disillusioned

ALREADY, only four months after elections which gave Norman Manley's PNP a majority in the House of Assembly, disillusionment is being keenly felt by many who had high hopes in the PNP.

This has occurred even sooner than expected, indicating the possible trend of political development. It is clearly seen that former supporters of the PNP want an alternative policy.

The change is also showing itself in the trade union field. More and more requests are coming in to the progressive led SAWU and JFTU to expand their activities at Frome and New Yarmouth and other areas formally dominated by the BITU.

With the TUC but a shadow of its former power (Ken Hill is now an assistant editor of "Spotlight," leaving what is left of the TUC to Frank Hill) and the NWU fast discrediting itself, the SAWU is coming to be looked upon as the real alternative. The Workers are not going back to Busta.

Madam Leon, of the Jamaica Labour Party, has been convicted of lying about a candidate in Clarendon, during the election. She was sentenced to pay a fine of £30 or four months' imprisonment. She automatically loses her seat. A bye-election will be held to fill the vacancy.

St. Vincent says 'New Election'

A new Constitution to be implemented in St. Vincent in August this year, was foisted on the people by an announcement in the Legislative Council, without the people's knowledge and consent.

Such was the feeling expressed by St. Vincent workers in a resolution passed at a massed May Day meeting, and a protest was sent to the Governor for transmission to the Colonial Office. The resolution called for a general election before the implementation of the new Constitution, so that the people could determine, by the franchise, the changes that would affect their Island.

Another resolution condemned the bans on the freedom of movement in the new West Indian Federation, stating that this action was designed to restrict the freedom of popular representatives of the people, and any leaders, in units to be federated, in whom the majority of the people had confidence.

(From our St. Vincent Reporter.)

* * *

Antiguan starts shoe production

A shoemaking industry in the West Indies is news, but in this small island of Antigua, it is good news, indeed, for local industry.

"The Antigua Star" reports that a small establishment was set up by Mr. W. Rose, a local inhabitant, who left Antigua thirty years ago, but returned to settle in his business.

The report says that Mr. Rose's business is equipped with machines and tools of the trade, stocking leathers of various colours and quality. He manufactures various styles of men's and ladies' shoes "that are in some respects comparable with the imported shoe."

GUIANA WORKERS UNITED ON MAY DAY

From Janet Jagan

OVER 5,000 workers marched in the traditional May Day demonstration, on Sunday, May 1st. The parade left from Bourda Green around 2.30 p.m., marching eight miles around the city, and ending back at Bourda Green, where addresses were given by trade union officials.

The division in the labour movement, which was more apparent last year, when two trade union groups held separate May Day celebrations, did not exist this year. However, the presence of the Emergency Regulations, which have restricted liberties in British Guiana since October, 1953, was manifest.

Permission for the May Day parade was given after the trade unions had consulted with the Commissioner of Police, and had given assurances that there would be no banners or placards of political significance, and that none of the speakers would touch the subject of politics. Also, the police altered the route of the procession from that suggested by the trade unions—not permitting them to march through the working class districts.

The demonstrators, therefore, could not show their

continued on page 5

Slowly Honduras

AT an election anniversary meeting in Cinderella Town, British Honduras, Hon. Leigh Richardson, Leader of the People's United Party, and Member for Natural Resources, said that British Honduras should not go forward swiftly and crazily, but slowly and intelligently.

"It is by the tedious process of getting money a little at a time from the British Government, in its effort to make up for neglect of this country, some from the people, through loans, and a little from the people, through taxes, that the development of British Honduras will be made possible."

He did not say that, at the same time, imperialism is taking out more than it ever put in to the country.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

After the Election

THE Tories of Britain have been returned with an increased parliamentary majority, giving them, at most, another five years of rule, perhaps less.

It is important to note, however, that the real ruling class in Britain was the same when a Labour Government was in control. That Labour Government could have effected drastic changes of power in Britain and the colonies, had it wanted, but it preferred to continue carrying out the government of the Empire in the interests of the same big moneybags who benefit to-day by Tory rule.

And Labour could have won, had the Right-Wing leaders not tried to excel the Tories in pursuance of Tory policies, in being better little Tories. Thus, they lulled into apathy the fighting spirit of many a working-class Labour voter, who did not see why he should vote for a policy of German rearmament, cold war, etc.

With a vigorous policy of socialism, the Labour movement would have swept into victory. Instead, the reactionary leaders now try to put the blame on the Left. They should realise, however, that the capitalists are the best people to carry out a capitalist policy. Let the Labour movement struggle for Socialism.

And how does this Eden Government affect West Indians and other colonials?

We don't need to be told what the Tories are doing in Kenya against the Liberation Movement, or that they instituted a reign of dictatorship in Guiana, because the Government chosen by the people did not suit the moneybags.

Eden himself, on May 10th, indicated that the two-year conscription in Britain was in order to wage war against the Malayans. The Defence White Paper, issued a few months previously, made it quite clear that Britain needed huge conventional armaments to keep the Empire in subjection.

We also know the Labour Government record in Malaya, and we know the Labour leaders acquiesced in the injustice to Guianese. Official Labour policy in the election campaign was no different from the Tories' towards the colonies.

It is true to say that the only political party in Britain which unqualifiedly campaigned for complete independence for colonial peoples ruled by Britain, ithout any strings attached, was the Communist Party. In this respect, it must be said that the Communist Party represented the conscience of Britain towards the colonies.
thwarted their wishes.

This policy is also supported by many people in the Labour movement, although official Labour has
In Lambeth, there is a sizeable coloured community, and Col. Marcus Lipton, who lost his seat there in 1950, and barely regained it in 1951, was returned this year with a sizeable majority.

A substantial colonial population can also be found in St. Pancras South, where Labour candidate Lena Jeger stood, winning with a reduced majority.

Col. Lipton has been known to be active among the coloured population of Lambeth, tackling their problems of rents, etc., and we wonder whether the difference in voting between these two constituencies noted above, have been partly due to the difference in apparent activity of the two candidates among the coloured population.

Tory Generosity

NEW Colonial Development and Welfare allocations were announced on April 26th, payable from the British Exchequer to all of Britain's colonies.

The new sums amount to £80 million over the next five years, but due to sums unspent from a previous grant, the total is £120 million. The Colonial Secretary refers to this as "assistance on a generous scale," though he mentions that most of the resources for development actually comes from the local territories themselves.

What does the West Indies get? The whole area gets £13½ million new allocation, of which Jamaica and British Guiana get the largest sums of £3 million each, followed by British Honduras with £1¾ million, and the other territories with smaller amounts.

And this is for use over the next FIVE years. It is called "generous" by the Colonial Secretary. But anyone reading "Caribbean News" regularly, will find in its columns, every issue an account of the fabulous profits made and exported from our country by foreign parasites, through the exploitation of our people.

Even Manley of Jamaica was dissatisfied with his meagre allocation. "The Manchester Guardian," reported that his party is committed to an expenditure of £30 million in the next five years, and that Mr. Manley said that the Colonial Office, "in making such an allocation, expected Jamaica to solve her problem by 'devious sleight of hand methods,' of which he did not approve."

Will Manley now proceed to struggle vigorously for the welfare of Jamaicans, even if this goes against big business and his benefactor—the British Government, or will he just hope for the best?

WEST INDIAN GOODS ON THE LONDON MARKET

By Our Financial Wizard

DURING the March-April week-end THREE big international combines met in Annual General Meeting, to discuss amongst others, yours and my lives as WEST INDIANS.

Surprised? Mr. A. Harrisson, C.A., blurted it all out in Edinburgh to the shareholders of the STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

"My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen . . .
"Our business in the West Indies has also been prospering . . .
". . . we look forward to our connections here becoming even more fruitful . . ."

All this interest is summed up in the £39,577,000 written in life assurance during 1954, an increase of over £4 million on the year previous.

Not one job has been added to our productivity, not one more sugar cane, not one more show or road or medical service, but—the Directors decided, and had approved an INTERMEDIATE BONUS of 42/- per £100.

One might even add that the unfortunate West Indies was one of the only three overseas territories over which these financiers could gloat.

Big Rake-off

The schemes of the finance companies are bad enough; life has been made so uncertain by the wholesale robbery of capitalist business, that some apologists might even make a case for LIFE INSURANCE.

Let that be, it is the operations of combines such as ALUMINIUM LIMITED, who held their 27th Annual Meeting in Montreal on April 28th.

The Annual Report tells us that their nett income for 1954 was U.S. $34,970,025—NOT West Indian, U.S. dollars, that is, approximately 7/- to the dollar at to-day's rate of exchange. This rake-off was AFTER "straight-line" depreciation, which only means the crudest method known of whittling down profits for taxation purposes (permitted by the Companies Act) on the ground that the bauxite mines, amongst others, are Wasting Assets (continually lessening in value as the ore is extracted).

The Annual Report in the Yankee style, simplifies the picture to $3.87 per share. This accords with the propaganda that all big combines are merely little men clubbing together for the benefit of the many. It would be interesting to know how "little" are the Shares held by NATHANIEL V. DAVIES, or Field Marshal Lord Alexander?

One might well ask, but why this for CARIBBEAN NEWS?

True, this Canadian registered outfit talks of the Kitimat-Kemano project in the province of British Columbia, but the first territory that demands attention for the source of basic raw materials is BRITISH GUIANA.

The subsidiary company in B.G. is reported as producing 2,201,000 tons of all grades of bauxite, followed by French West Africa with 495,000 tons. Business is so promising, that an alumina processing plant, set up in 1953, is raising its capacity to 300,000 tons of alumina annually for next year. The processing of alumina from bauxite is a simple washing process, and provides only very little opportunity in the way of industrialisation. Real high grade stuff is reserved for the big-boys in Canada's nor'-west.

Forget the implied insignificant return per share, that Nat Davies drags across the trail—how did he ever have enough capital to hold shares at all, and worse enough to qualify for Chairman?

The Rewards of 'Faithful service'

IT is announced by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, that The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Peter Bell, Chief Justice, British Guiana, to be Chief Justice in Northern Rhodesia.

Sir Edward Peter Stubbs Bell, who was born in St. Kitts, in the Leeward Islands, on 10th May, 1902, was educated at the Antigua Grammar School, and studied law at the Inner Temple, London. He entered the Leeward Islands Public Service in 1920, and after being called to the Bar, in June, 1934, was appointed Magistrate in St. Kitts. He was promoted to be Attorney General, St. Lucia, in 1935. He was transferred to Palestine in 1938, as Crown Counsel, and became Legal Secretary, Malta, in 1941, and Solicitor General, Malayan Union, in 1946. He was appointed to Tanganyika, as a Puisne Judge, in 1949, and to his present post of Chief Justice, British Guiana in 1951.
JUSTICE

New Chief Justice

It is announced by he Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, that the Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. F. W. Holder, Attorney General, British Guiana, to be Chief Justice of that territory, in succession to Sir Peter Bell, whose appointment to be Chief Justice of Northern Rhodesia, is also announced.

Mr. Frank Wilfred Holder, C.M.G., was born in Barbados on the 1st July, 1897, and was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, and at Codrington College, University of Durham. He studied law at the Middle Temple, London, and was called to the Bar in January 1924. He practised law in Barbados, until 1936, when he entered the Barbados Public Service as Solicitor General. He was appointed a Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal, and Register of Friendly Societies in 1942. He was transferred to the post of Solicitor General in British Guiana in 1944, and promoted to his present post of Attorney General in that Colony in 1946.

(Colonial Office Information Department.)

TRINIDAD PARTY FORMED

A new political party, under the name of "West Indian National Congress," was formed recently in Port of Spain.

The Party's intention is to secure free secondary education in Trinidad, speedy Federation, and to obtain Dominion status within the British Commonwealth.

The Party plans to contest 14 seats in the next General Elections, and to establish branches throughout the Colony and the British West Indies, with Port of Spain as its headquarters.

First president general of the Party is Mr. John Broomes, with Mr. Justus Lewis as secretary general. (Information Office, Red House.)

Let's Take a Look Back

(Extracts from C.L.C. Bulletin, 1948)

HECTOR WYNTER, Jamaican Rhodes' Scholar, former Chairman of the Jamaica Youth Movement, and Vice-President of the Caribbean Federation of Youth, left here in August to further his qualifications in the teaching profession, at Oxford University. In his farewell address to members of the J.Y.M. and friends, he exhorted the leaders of the movement to show firmness and courage, and not to be diverted from truth, by reactionary press propaganda. He referred, particularly, to the scurrilous campaign to discredit the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and exhorted the J.Y.M. not to be intimidated by smear campaigns of this nature.

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD.

An angry crowd gathered in time to save a young cyclist from illegal arrest at pistol point by an American Air Force driver here recently. It appears that the cyclist got in the way of the U.S. mail truck on Frederick Street, busy shopping centre, whereupon, the American descended, pointed a gun at the young man, and attempted to force him to board the truck. Only the rapid arrival of the hostile crowd saved the young man from being kidnapped in his own city. The American was subsequently court martialled and sentenced by the U.S. authorities.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

News has reached here of the gaoling of six Jamaican seamen, who were employed on the Panamanian ship Bouccaneer, at the port of Savannah, U.S.A. The seamen refused to observe the American Jim Crow practice of drinking water at a separate drinking fountain on board ship, marked "Coloured." Three of them were given ninety (90) days in gaol with £75 fines, two got sixty (60) days with £50 fines, and one thirty (30) days with £25 fine.

COLOURED IMMIGRANTS

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

A deputation from the London Area Council of the Movement for Colonial Freedom, saw the leader of the London County Council, Mr. I. J. Hayward, on May 2nd, regarding British subjects coming from abroad—especially the West Indies. Mr. Hayward promised that the Council would continue to do everything within its powers to assist the integration into London life of immigrants remaining in London.

The Deputation presented the following memorandum :

" Britain has been, hrough he years, a country proud to welcome the politically oppressed, and the economically depressed. The result of the free admission of peoples, with many cultures and traditions, has been greatly to the benefit of our country. We believe that a continuance of this policy will be not only in keeping with the liberal traditions which we cherish, but will also be to our lasting benefit. London, as the principal city of the British Commonwealth, should be a cosmopolitan city, acting as a link binding the Commonwealth.

Prejudice

" We believe that the proposals for the restriction of immigration, which have been made by Mr. Cyril Osborne and others, were not made in ignorance, have been made from colour prejudice.

" The 1951 Census returns for the County of London, show that of 3,108,000 people then living there, 43,000 had been put in the self-governing countries of the Commonwealth, 90,000 in the Irish Republic, 22,000 in the Colonies, 146,000 in foreign countries, and 28,000 in countries which are not stated. In all, 329,000, or more than 10% of the population of the country, were not natives of the United Kingdom. This situation rightly caused no alarm, and similarly, the recent statistically slight increase in the number of Londoners born outside the United Kingdom, caused by immigration from the West Indies, need cause no alarm.

" Some 10,000 West Indians, most of them Jamaicans, are believed to have come to Britain in 1954. This was about 12% of the total immigration into Britain in the year. In the first six months of the year, Board of Trade figures show that 3,600 West Indian immigrants were joined by 3,200 Canadians, 6,700 Australians, and 3,800 foreigners. The attention of the Press to the Government has, however, been almost entirely concentrated upon the West Indian immigrants, in a way calculated to stir up racial prejudice. We believe that if the facts were presented to the people of Britain in their proper proportion, it would be seen that to talk of restriction was to react hysterically to a situation which poses no serious problems.

Social problem

" The proportion of West Indian immigrants who have settled in London is not, as far as we are aware known, but it is almost certainly less than half of the total. There is a tendency for immigrants to settle in certain Boroughs, such as Lambeth, Kensington and Paddington. Yet, even in Lambeth, which has, perhaps, the highest proportion of West Indian immigrants (some 3,000) among its population of 250,000, it cannot be seriously argued that there is a numerical problem, and as far as there is a problem, it is a social one with which the civic authorities have shown that they will be able to deal.

" We do not wish to enter in detail into the question of the economic troubles which are bringing West Indians from their homes. We comment only that unemployment in Jamaica is about 25%, and that Britain, as the metropolitan country, must bear such responsibility for the failure to develop the Jamaican economy.

" In conclusion, we reiterate, with the Conference which determined upon the sending of this deputation, ' our conviction that it is perfectly possible and desirable for people of different races and creeds to live in harmony together in Britain '."

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

FESTIVAL GROUP

THE World Youth Festival in Warsaw, this year, from July 31st to August 14th, will be a terrific event for young people of all lands. They will compete in sport, take part in cultural performances, see films, places of interest in the New Poland, and make many friends during the two weeks' stay.

Like the young West Indians and friends, in the picture above, who will be going to the Festival, they will have much more than an ordinary holiday. Anyone wishing to go with the West Indian group must rush their registration before July to Trevor Carter, Youth Organiser, CLC, 3 Robert Street, N.W.1. The cost is £27, or £33 all-in.

Let us keep faith

— says Catholic worker

THE Caribbean Labour Congress has been sending several speakers to address trade union branches on the issue of coloured workers in Britain, and the speakers get a very favourable response from the British workers.

The Brooklands branch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union has sent the following letter of thanks to the C.L.C. :

" Dear Sir and Brother,

" At the request of Brother Vass Jackson, who visited our Branch last Tuesday evening, I send you the following resolution; this has been sent to the Executive Council of our Union.

> 'That the Members of Brooklands Branch deplore the attitude displayed by certain Trade Unionists in different parts of this country towards West Indian immigrants, and will they take all measures within their province to stamp this pernicious action out.'

" May I add that many of our Members present are much aware of the fact of the attitude of some people towards the coloured peoples of the world. After hearing Brother Vass Jackson's talk, I didn't have the pleasure of shaking him by the hand, or to thank him for coming along. But to me, a Catholic, we are all God's Children, no matter what colour, race or creed. And if people would only keep faith with one another, what a happier world we would live in.

" Yours fraternally,
(sgd.) M. O'KEEFFE (Miss)
Secretary."

Busy Jamaica

MOVES are being made by certain shipping interests here to make Jamaica the distribution point for cargo going to the other West Indian Islands. Since the inter-island shipping service came into operation in January many tons of cargo for other islands passed through Jamaica.

This is increasing rapidly, and already there is significant indication that Jamaica may become a free port in the near future.

One steamship company is advocating that Jamaica be made the distribution point for inter-island shipping. (" The Torch.")

A Poland of Progress

I was among a large number of guests who attended the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising exhibition, at the British Polish Friendship Society, on Monday, 18th April. The day and occasion was marked as a commemoration of the martyrs, heroes and heroines of the Jewish Ghettoes, enforced in Poland by the Nazis during World War II, and to all those of non-Hebrew religion who assisted the Jews in their bitter struggle against Hitler's fascists.

Among the literature on exhibition, were school books of a new type, written in Yiddish, for Jewish school children; there were also technical books for Jewish workers, written in Yiddish. During and before the last war and the liberation of Poland, Jewish workers never worked in the heavy industry in Poland. Therefore, after the liberation, the birth of the new social system opened the door of opportunity to every Pole. Many Jewish workers came in to work in heavy industry, and this is the reason for the publication of technical books printed in Yiddish, for Jewish workers.

HORRORS OF PAST

The pictures on exhibit could be divided into three groups, giving descriptions of Poland before, during, and after World War II. There were photographs picturing occurrances during the war, such as mass hangings in public, and huge mountains of rubble of demolished buildings, that were either bombed, or wilfully destroyed by the Nazi occupation troops. As one looks at these pictures, one is suddenly engulfed by a spirit of sadness and pity, for the millions who suffered at the hands of those brutal beasts more than ten years ago.

Passing onwards from the ugly pictures of yesterday's Poland, I came to a series of photographs of the new and modern Poland, a country running onward to a better life. In the City of Warsaw, new buildings, not for the rich, but for the use of all, are constantly rising, and soon New Warsaw will be ranking among the world's most modern cities. Among the buildings constructed are Mother and Child Institutes, for the new Government in Poland believes that the protection of the citizens' health, and especially that of the mother and child, is one of the most important fields of State Security.

New electric power stations are built on modern lines. Concert halls, palaces of culture, new, airy, and sunny homes for the workers. The electrification of Poland is receiving the fullest attention, and already electricity is extended to large areas of the peasantry.

Before the last war, Poland's peasantry found it possible only to use paraffin lamps, and at times there was hardly money to buy any. Soon the whole peasantry would have electricity. Yes, life is something now worth while to live in New Poland, where every human being has the right to work and leisure.

Carlton Bayley

. . and NEW LIFE

A fitting climax to a very impressive exhibition, was the Polish film " That Others May Live." Almost two hours' of dramatic acting produced a moving and thought-provoking story of fascist evils and brutality, and of the refusal of a broken and subdued Jewish people to submit willingly to mass-elimination.

The touching scenes of small children, hounded and haunted by hate, bullets and pestilence, and their valiant fight against subjection, coupled with the resolve and determination of all the Ghetto victims to harass and defeat their enslavers, can indeed be an encouragement to the many colonial peoples now undergoing the same form of persecution.

In Kenya, in Malaya, in Guiana, in South Africa, and in all the Colonies, the master-race theorists are at work. By devious methods from bold physical extermination to economic exploitation, the move is afoot to delegate non-Europeans to slave labour camps. Mass evictions, plural arrests and detentions —all these methods are perpetrated under the guise of Law and Order.

The Nazis failed to suppress the Jews. Those who emulate the Nazis must also fail. The lesson of Jewish self-salvation is a lesson for all oppressed people, a lesson by which they, too, can burst their chains and demand their equal place in a world where all men are equal.

Ken Gouveia

THE SHADOW AND THE SUBSTANCE

This is the concluding article in the series on FEDERATION by BILLY STRACHAN, Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.)

LOOKING back to 1947 seems a long, long time for anyone who has grown up in the West Indies. We have come a long way since then.

The CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS held a first-class Conference in Kingston, Jamaica.

The fiery chatter from a lot of frustrated lawyers, doctors, and careerists, baying at the imperialists, as they rode astride the backs of millions of unemployed and barefooted workers, is a sight that will long be remembered.

Prior to the historic conference, which was attended by all political, trade union, and co-operative organisations, it is true to say that it was a rare bird that thought Caribbean-wise. Perhaps today it still is! Look at the competition between Adams, Gomes and Manley for the "puppet-premiership."

Yes, we are all a-fervour, for the struggle of the century is to be climaxed by the imposition of a BRITISH CARIBBEAN FEDERATION. This only means that the slogan of the oppressed in the West Indies is being used to dress up a rotten system that the British have pushed through, with the aid of a few black men. The latter would sell house and home for a C.B.E. or knighthood.

A dismal picture, but through the darkness the role and character of Dr. Cheddi Jagan shines and opens up untold secrets.

LION UNMASKED

Firstly, his mere existence, and the Party that he led to ballot-box victory, exposed the nonsense of advanced constitutions and limited self-government. Some sincere colleagues from the islands, some from Guiana itself, think with deep emotion, that all that Cheddi preached and did, was correct, but oh, too fast! They suggest a Manley policy, so let's examine the two policies.

Dr. Jagan, on return from the U.S.A. with his energetic wife Janet, recognising the plight of the Guianese, sat down to think. He was starting life, a young man of 26 years. He walked amongst the poor, the sugar workers, the people from which he sprang.

He invited them to his home, they talked (as West Indians will) they exchanged stories of the lot in the ricefields, the under payment of coloured civil servants, the problem of the unemployed. These were the targets; then they thought of the deadly weapons that Britain has used with impunity to perpetuate these horrors. THE PRESS.

So the POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMENTARY was printed and given away free-of-charge; virulent, exposing, supporting the workers' demands, and a real reflection of what lay bubbling in the heart of all Guiana.

Then the PPP was born in 1951, in a land where men of African descent had been set against those of Indian origin. A land where British sponsored divisions thrived, and progress seemed impossible. Out of it all came a representative Party, reflecting every racial strain, Burnham, Wong, Van Sertima, Janet and Dr. Jagan.

FOR THE PEOPLE

The PPP printed a Constitution, they adopted and published a Programme. Subscriptions were to be just over 1 cent per week. Membership committed one to "adhere to the programme, principles, and policy of the Party."

Any questions?

The PPP stated:

a. Demands for polls for trade union recognition in any industry, where a trade union obtained 51% of the votes.

b. They would buy in the cheapest market to afford the people the lowest prices, and shun the preferential ties to Britain as colonies, of buying dear and selling cheap!

c. They would re-organise the medical services, to ensure adequate medical treatment, irrespective of financial status, or geographical location.

d. They would reduce the pensionable age to 55 years, providing SECURITY of tenure in estate ranges (barracks), levy heavier taxes on the rich, through increased direct taxation, and reduce indirect taxation (e.g., price of movie seats, low bicycle licence rates, lower duties on imported cloths, etc.).

FOR FOREIGNERS

Contrast the sleek, polished Barrister-at-Law, Norman Manley, M.C., Q.C.

Returning to Jamaica after World War I, he rocketed off to a flourishing practise with lots and lots of cash. Thus he financed his madcap schemes of high-powered American automobiles, which he raced across the mountains. He was retained by the largest insurance companies, and other large concerns. His skill pleading in the courts, was used to show his ability to out-talk his opponents, reaching the lowest depths when he prosecuted the most popular African of the mid-thirties, MARCUS GARVEY.

Since then, Manley, supported financially in his political propaganda by the wealthiest merchants, who own shares in his weekly newspaper, has thundered on, careless of the former friends whom he had to smash on his way to notoriety as a British collaborator. Hill, Hart, Lawrence, none were too valuable to be cast aside for a ministerial crown.

The price? The 1954 model of Plan For Progress, provided:

a. Support and maintenance of schemes and laws designed to attract foreign capital. "WE guarantee . . . to give **them** security."

Manley and friends accept the Yankee (World) Bank policy of agricultural development, and the "go-slow" on industrialisation. In his Labour programme, wages are to be limited to a sum to permit and maintain new investments. Well, it has to be damned low in order to encourage some of the hard-fisted business men from abroad to invest. Manley even threatens that we might have to go lower, and "accept wages that can only be justified on the footing that an industry is being built up." What a wonderful loophole, for some Yankee oil magnate!

Education, Health and Housing receive scant attention, and so the thin-lipped old man has reached his zenith.

ALTERNATIVE: PROGRESS

As a fellow Jamaican, only seven days in Britain, said to me, as I stood selling CARIBBEAN NEWS outside Westbourne Park Station:

> "I voted for Mister Manley because things were so bad, but, 'tcha mann, him du nuttin fi wi, so mi cume obah hare fi wuk."

No elaboration is necessary. The path to Federation and National Independence, higher living standards will not be won by any flash manoeuvre with the laws, that British imperialists themselves made. We WEST INDIANS will march on, scorning to stab a brother, hating the foreigner who comes to rob and grow fat, united against the exploiter without compromise, and join with all the workers of the world who will respect our new found nationhood.

Happy Birthday

Two candles on the cake tell the story that little Janene Nichols is celebrating her second birthday with her friends. Janene is the smallest one, third from right. Her friends seem to be eating a lot of cake. Janene's father is an electrician from West Africa.

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Not Fit To Rule Guiana

From our Guiana Correspondent

THUNDER, official organ of the P.P.P., in its editorial of May 7th, accused the present puppet government of B.G. with negligence and incompetence. The editorial pointed out that one of the reasons stated in the White Paper for the suspension of the Constitution, was incompetence and negligence of the P.P.P. Ministers. The editorial cites eight examples of administrative negligence, and ends, declaring that the nominated government is not fit to rule Guiana.

The People's Progressive Party has received a cablegram from Ruslan Abdulgani, Secretary General of the Asian African Conference, in response to their's of greetings—"Guianese people look with hope for the successful outcome Conference deliberations against colonialism, and for World Peace.

AFRICA and ASIA Speak For Humanity

Garlanded Chou En Lai of China having a friendly chat with Dr. Sastroamidjojo, Indonesian Premier, at Bandung.

FOR once, we have witnessed a conference whose repercussions on the future of mankind, can already be clearly assessed.

The AFRO-ASIAN Meeting at Bandung, INDONESIA, that concluded after one week, on April 25th, 1955, indicates the most dynamic bloodless revolution in world thought, that has occurred in modern history. 1,600 million African and Asian people raised their voices with absolute unanimity, condemning "colonialism" in all its forms, as an evil that must speedily be ended.

Twenty-nine Nations were represented at Bandung. All were people that in recent years have suffered the insult, brutality, and debasement of imperialism. Towering over the Conference, **Chou En-Lai, Premier of China,** with the support of 600,000,000 Chinese, won the support, admiration and respect of ALL colonial and oppressed people. Here was a man, garlanded, cheered and feted for the role that he has played in world affairs. Rawle Knox, of the London "Sunday Observer," struck the key, when he reported:

> "Through all these two sprawling continents, only China has achieved the complete respect of the West, and this she has managed through Communism in the short span of five years."

Common Aim

Nehru of India, Mohamed Ali of Pakistan, Sir John Kotelewala of Ceylon, Turks, Phillipines, Africans from the Gold Coast, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, the Lebanon, etc., with varying degrees of political, economic, and ethical development, have mystified the most brilliant bourgeois thinkers. What does this collection hold in common?

One correspondent unwittingly referred to HUNGER, then later to state that they "were united in hating Western colonialism." This is the final chime in the death knell that tolls for imperialism, especially where it has depended on its maintenance on Afro-Asian disunity. Five years ago, the South African Indian, and South African African Congresses came to united terms against Malanism. Intrigue in TRINIDAD and GUIANA might well take note: it should be clear that history will not move in isolation, and CHEDDI JAGAN, with his PPP success, was only another symptom in the world-wide development of all subject people that were marching on to Liberation.

Disruption Tried

While more than half humanity conferred at Bandung, the warmongers and vultures of the world hovered overhead, with deadly traps, and endless silken webs. Spies from U.S.A. mixed as Press representatives among the crowds. The insignificant beknighted Ceylonese collaborator spoke up with all the frightened guilt of a nervous schoolboy, to try to sow the seed of chaos.

Kotelewala, with a Turkish ally, tried to lead astray this magnificent gathering with fanciful lies of a Soviet imperialism. Not satisfied with the cold reception he received, the Yankee stooge, Carlos Romulo of the Philippines, spent a sleepless night rehearsing a supporting speech, under the direction of some Hollywood-trained spy and another, the Negro Congressman Powell.

So hopeless was the situation, that the practised dramatic monologue never took place. Which colonial could forget that the worst horrors of the first atom bomb was reserved for Asian people? Kotelewala withdrew his previous remarks in the opening minutes on the following morning.

Sovereign Nations

Worse yet, Pandit Nehru, certainly an elder Asian statesman, pointed out to his national upstart, in his report to the Indian House of the People, the falsehood of any colonial status being applied to Eastern European nations. All the Eastern states implied, were sovereign nations, directly represented at the UNITED NATIONS, and those not yet accorded recognition, were continually sponsored for membership, by the state alleged to be violating them. What type of "imperialism" this? Can one imagine Britain sponsoring **Jamaica** or **St. Lucia** or **St. Vincent** for admission to Lake Success, New York?

Among the resolutions passed, and all were UNANIMOUS, the Conference recognised firstly, the urgency of economic development on the basis of mutual interest and respect for national sovereignty. No colonial development schemes; NO world bank confidence trick; Conference demanded the development of National Banks, to speed industrialisation alongside a policy to end exploitation by American and British financiers. No escape would be afforded the enemy, as these African and Asian politicians and working-class patriots met.

Peace Essential

The Conference deplored the policy and practice of racial segregation; it congratulated the courageous stand by Africans, Indians and Pakistani victims in the Union of South Africa; Conference reaffirmed its faith in the United Nations Charter of HUMAN RIGHTS; Conference unequivocally opposed the production and experimentation with atomic bombs, nuclear and thermonuclear weapons of war. Finally, this rally of all colonial peoples' aims, indeed all mankind, declared that on the principles already agreed on, we could effectively contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace.

What an advance for humanity! The backward(?) people, under the guidance of Chou En-Lai, recognising Peace as a pre-requisite for national enrichment. The heroes that met at Bandung have suffered much on the road from penury, war and prison, but to-day concluded a session that young Africans, Asians and WEST INDIANS will look back to as our "coming-of-age" in World Political Affairs.

Billy Strachan

LETTER BOX

Barbados Calling

Dear Comrade,

This is Barbados calling. We are yet struggling hard for equality, justice and fair play, in this ultra conservative and imperialistic land of starvation, overtaxation without proper representation, along with many other social evils that exist as a result of graft, greed and corruption among our perfidious leaders of Labour. Grantley Adams, chief stooge and traitor, is rapidly losing power. We must protest against the extermination of our people in Kenya, South Africa, and other parts of this world. They are also barring Negroes or blacks from Canada, Australia, South America, and other important countries. If peace is to be lasting, these most outrageous problems must be made right. We take our hats off to the P.P.P. of British Guiana, Ashton Chase, Cheddi Jagan and others. The whole Caribbean will have to fall in line. We all pledge solidarity; thanks and regards to the boys.

With best wishes, I am,
Fraternally yours,

ALRICK GRANT,

Bridgetown, Barbados.

GUIANA WORKERS

from page 1

protest against the fascist rule, which has restricted, imprisoned, and detained dozens of trade union leaders, and prevented meetings of more than five persons without police permission, for one-and-a-half years. Banners showing solidarity with working people of the world, and against colonialism, which have always been a feature of previous May Day celebrations, were banned on this occasion.

Five resolutions were passed by the demonstrators after the march:—(1) that the Government take steps to enforce complete processing in the colony of all raw materials, to relieve the growing army of unemployed; (2) that H.E. the Governor be requested to release the Report of the Committee on Better Wages and improved Working conditions for domestic servants and washers, and to implement its recommendations; (3) that H.E. the Governor set up a Committee of Enquiry to investigate the wages and working conditions of quarry workers, (4) that the Government take immediate steps to implement the Venn Commission's recommendations for the establishment of a Wages Board in the sugar industry; and (5) that the Rice Marketing Board is requested to place a better quality of rice on the local market at the earliest possible moment, and that copies of the resolution be sent to His Excellency the Governor and the Rice Marketing Board.

CLEAR DEMANDS

Unions taking part in the demonstration were, the Federation of Unions of Government Employees; Sawmill and Woodworkers' Union; Trade Union Council; Guiana Industrial Workers' Union; Municipal Workers' Union; B.G. Labour Union; Domestic Workers' and Washers' Union, and others.

Slogans carried included some of the following:—Sawmill workers want a minimum wage of $3.52 per day; sawmill workers must have sick leave with pay; extend 8-hour day to domestic servants; waterfront workers want two weeks' annual vacation leave with pay; give us double pay for all overtime worked; trade unions join in the common struggle for the workers' rights.

Also, bakers want Bakers Ordinance amended to start work at 5.0 a.m.; 40-hour week for all employees, we demand unemployment insurance give municipal workers a living wage; establish basic rates for field workers in sugar industry; old age security benefits for all; greater safety for the working man.

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obtainable from
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2 Parton Street, W.C.1.

BOOK WORLD

African Report

"Must We Lose Africa?" by Colin Legum (254 pp., W. H. Allen & Co., 16/-).

THIS book: "Must We Lose Africa?" appears to be an inside report of one of the greatest political case Histories of Africa, written by an author, claimed to be fully familiar with the current African climate of opinion. It is a challenging story of twentieth century Africa, and the challenge is the impartiality of the report; an unbiased analysis of the significance of the increasingly social and political unrest in that part of the world.

The case history is the factual revelation of the chronicle of the earlier European contact with the Buganda Empire in East Africa, of which Mr. Stanley, a man who went to Africa to look for the lost Dr. Livingstone—was then the outstanding European ambassador in the Kabaka's court, the Mutesa of Ganda people.

The opening chapter of the book deals with the existing political crisis in East Africa. It reveals the irreconcilable conflicts between the Kabaka Frederick Mutesa II, king of Buganda, and the British Governor in the Kabaka's jurisdiction.

For the past 60 years there have been two palaces in Buganda, two regimes, and two rulers. And since then, there has always been an uneasy term between.

It was foreseen that two Governments existing in the country would one day collide, and that to avoid such a collision it was to introduce certain social changes and political reforms, with a view that such changes might result in a Unitary Government in a country where British intervention created a second opposing camp.

* * *

All that was revealed was that the Kabaka—now exiled in London—failed to comply with a certain new colonial policy for his province, such as federation with the neighbouring countries of Zanzibar and Kenya.

So, at last, the impending crash was not avoided. The Kabaka had to make room for the Governor. Suddenly the people of Buganda learnt that the Kabaka, their ruler, had been made a prisoner in the Governor's bungalow, and by the time the news spread, read what happened next in the book.

Such is the humiliating episode of the Kabaka of Buganda, portrayed by a writer who found it difficult to suppress facts, but many times at pains to show the impolitic of colonialism. "Must We Lose Africa?" covers most of the recent happenings in all parts of the African colonies: racial struggle in South Africa, Federation in Central Africa, and war in Kenya, all carefully dealt with in the book.

Mr. Colin Legum has a wealth of information on the colonial world, but I disagree with his "down to earth loyalty."

"Must We Lose Africa?" is essentially worth reading.

N. A. Ologbogsere

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TALKING CRICKET

by Roy Rickards

CRICKET is a sportsman's game, as we all know, but let us just take a kick at the West Indies' team, now struggling very hard to even draw a test match against the Aussies, especially the board of selectors, who are constantly making blunders in both selecting a team and captain.

To begin with, one would wonder why the Vice-Captaincy was given to Denis Atkinson, instead of Worrell. Denis, a man unused in the science of captaincy, and without any proof or credentials of his ability to lead a cricket team.

He had greatness thrust upon him by the Moghuls, of West Indian cricket, who made him Vice-Captain of the present series, at a time when his position as a player was hanging in the balance. This view holds, despite his splendid performance in the fourth test.

Frank Worrell

When Jeff Stollmeyer was forced out of the first test by an injured finger, Denis got the shock of his life, by being thrown to the lions of test cricket as Captain of the West Indies.

Frank Chester, who is acknowledged as one of the finest umpires of the world, says Worrell's skill and art of batmanship, stands out most in his mind. His first-class innings at Madras, with the first Commonwealth team, was his best. There is no ball that Frank cannot negotiate, and most of the bowlers who have bowled to him have found it extremely difficult to keep him quiet.

Again, when an outstanding man as Wensley says that Worrell's batting is one of the finest he has ever seen, surely it is a rich compliment to his ability.

Experience

But I do not base my judgment on Worrell's ability as a player, but as an outstanding player in all departments, with a wealth of experience gained during many foreign tours, including England, India, and Australia, in addition to being "at home" to foreign teams in the West Indies.

Denis Atkinson has not got this wealth of experience. A team must have confidence in its captain, and it is sad that the West Indies had the misfortune of being led by a tyro.

Of course, I must say Denis is not to be blamed for this, but surely such a blunder is a nasty insult to Worrell, and might have engendered a low team spirit.

Is it because of colour that Worrell is turned down? Or is it finance? Surely finance couldn't be the answer, nor ability, therefore I can only assume the former.

West Indies' cricket has never yet been led by a coloured West Indian, despite the good men available, as witness Headley. I think if these selectors should stop for a moment and think carefully of their unfortunate mistakes, and forget about the minor things which seem to be the stumbling block in the progress of the West Indies, it would give a lift to West Indies' cricket.

This is a reminder to us that colour and social prestige still remain in the West Indies—even in Sport.

In the interest of West Indies

WITH British Caribbean Federation all but accomplished, we recognise that this form of Crown Colony has been adopted, as Federation was the main demand of organised labour for this century. This was a typical imperialist diplomatic trick to mislead many of our people, as we began to batter at the walls of insularity. We were stretching our hands across the islands and calling to our brothers to unite!

This is the view expressed in the Annual Report of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) to be presented to the 8th A.G.M., on Sunday, June 26th, 2.30 p.m., at 3 Robert Street, London, N.W.1.

Despite the fact that the imperialist type federation does not embody the demands of the C.L.C. for responsible government for each unit, with wholly elected Legislature and Executive responsible to these Legislatures, and a wholly elected Federal Parliament with elected Cabinet responsible to the Legislature, nevertheless, "we will go forward fighting continually for our demands . . ."

The Report reviews the current situation in each West Indian territory, and gives an account of the many appeals received from the political and trade union movements for assistance from London.

The many-sided activity of the C.L.C. during the past year, including several successful dances, publication of "Caribbean News," public meetings on the colour bar are dealt with. The Youth Committee has formed a dance group, and is preparing for the Festival in Warsaw. Another important activity was sending speakers to over 50 trade union branches, on the question of coloured workers in Britain.

REAL NATIONAL PARTY

KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

A NEW organisation, which will work for the formation of a government truly representative of the people, and the implementation of a programme of legislation and administration which will develop the resources of the country for the benefit of the people, abolish employment, raise the standard of living, and extend education and culture to all, was inaugurated in Kingston, Jamaica, at the beginning of May.

This new political party is the People's Freedom Movement. A draft statement discussed at the founding conference, stressed the need for a **real** National Movement, led by the working-class, to fight for the freedom of Jamaica from imperialist domination.

Delegates expressed their desire for such a movement as a definite alternative to the corrupt Bustamante Party, and its twin brother, the P.N.P.

Real control of the Movement will be in the hands of the rank and file. Resolutions condemning colonialism, demanding negotiation by the Great Powers, defending Trade Union and Civil Rights, were unanimously adopted.

Conference elected the following officers for a period of one year: H. C. Buchanan, President; Lascelles Murray, 1st Vice-President; Chris Lawrence, 2nd Vice-President; Ross Williams, 3rd Vice-President; Rolly Simms, Secretary; H. Sinclair, Assistant Secretary, and A. Brown, Treasurer.

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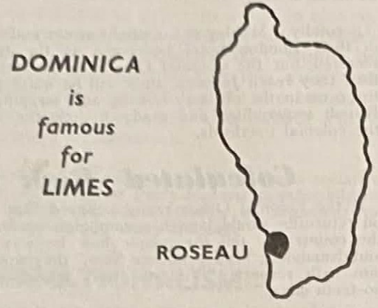
CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

August-September ★ ★ 1955

DOMINICANS WANT BETTER FUTURE

From D. Joseph

AS a result of the 10th Annual Conference of the Dominica Trade Union held at headquarters on Monday and Tuesday, 28-29 March, the Union requested of the Governor an interview to present Resolutions pertaining to Government, as adopted at the Conference.



The interview was granted, and on April 27th a deputation went to Government Office. The deputation included Mr. C. Loblack, President; Mr. D. Joseph, General Secretary: Mr. Vincent Jno Baptiste, Mr. Willis Husey, Mr. Selwyn Nelson, Mrs. Eugenia Joseph and Miss Veronica, Executive Council members.

The General Secretary read a copy of the resolutions numbering about thirty. They included the necessity for:

Implementation of annual holiday with pay, better wages and conditions of employment.

Extension and traffic regulation at Roseau bridge.

Reduction in Government dental fee.

Disconnection of and non-interference between Roseau Maternity and Tuberculosis ward kitchen,

Continued on Page 4

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Is Manley an Anti-imperialist?

by Caribbean News Reporter.

SOME 400 West Indians cheered and applauded Mr. Norman Manley, Q.C. when he declared, "I AM A LASTING OPPONENT OF IMPERIALISM AND EMPIRE BUILDING."

The leader of the People's National Party of Jamaica was speaking on Thursday 14th July, at the Porchester Hall, surrounded by a motley platform.

Manley was rather unkind to the Chairman Dr. Pitt, and the island that he had made his home, Trinidad. He slightingly stated that Pitt ONCE led a political party, and going one worse, alleged that the Island of Trinidad did not seem to take to parties. Who blessed Jamaica or Guiana in preference to Columbus' Trinity?

Addressing his audience of humble but sincere nationally-minded West Indians, who looked with longing pride to West Indian nationhood, the Chief Minister of Jamaica

Continued on Page 5

By permission of "Tribune"

GUIANA PUPPETS GIVE THEMSELVES PAY RISE

From Janet Jagan

THE People's Progressive Party has launched a signature campaign protesting against the passage of a Bill to increase the salaries of puppet members of the Legislative and Executive Councils of British Guiana.

The members recently voted themselves increases from $160 per month to $250 per month for Legislators and from $300 to $420 for Executive members (BWI dollar).

Their pay increases will be retrospective from the date of their appointment, January 1954. These persons were nominated by the Governor after the suspension of the elected House of Assembly in October 1953.

A storm of protests has arisen over these increases. The Party's petition asks the Secretary of State for the Colonies to annul the Bill and "in the interests of restoring peace and harmony to the colony we demand an end to the Interim Government and an immediate restoration of normal constitutional life in British Guiana."

Detainees

All the eight men released from detention who had been held at the Penal Settlement in Mazaruni are under restriction of movement orders signed by the Governor.

Three of the men, Sydney Kuttain, Sundar Etwaru and Bissoon Persaud, have to report to the police daily. Any neglect on their part means immediate imprisonment. Due to these restrictions most of the ex-detainees find great difficulty to obtain employment. Added to this, those who lived on sugar estates, have been served with eviction and trespass notices by the estate owners.

Early Trinidad election hope dim

GENERAL Elections due by Order in Council to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in September at the expiration of the present five-year term of the Legislature may be postponed for another six months.

This action is likely to result from the acceptance by the Legislature on April 15, of a motion seeking postponement of the General Election in September this year.

The motion was moved by the Hon. A. E. James, member for Port of Spain East. The Hon. Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, intimated to the House that the Government would accept the motion, but some members voted against, including the Hon. Bhadase S. Maharaj and members of the Butler Bloc.

Mr. Maharaj intimated to the House his intention of resigning if the motion was passed. On acceptance of the motion he handed in his resignation to the Speaker of the House on the grounds that prolongation of the life of the Council by members would be a breach of faith with the electorate. He intimated, however, his intention to contest the resultant by-election.

The Butler Bloc according to the Hon. Uriah Butler, would resign en bloc at the expiration of the five-year term of the Legislature in September.

Supporters of the motion stated that their object for supporting it was to allow the colony to get a new or improved constitution on the basis of recommendations to be made by the Constitutional Reform Committee now discussing the matter.

Ex-servicemen Hit

EVIL concomitant of the emergency regulations in Guiana was the requisitioning by British forces of the British Guiana Legion club-house for use as a N.A.A.F.I. canteen. As a result 3,000 local ex-Servicemen had only two small rooms in which to meet.

This was brought to the attention of the British Empire Service League at its Conference in London recently by Flight-Lieutenant F. Miller of the British Guiana Legion.

★ EDITORIAL ★

High Pressure Publicity

ONE of the consequences of the people's confidence in the People's Progressive Party of Guiana has been the increased attention, at least lip-service, paid to social welfare and housing.

The nominated government is now forced to pretend that it is doing something in this respect. Its Public Relations Department is mobilised to put across to the people how much is being done for them; now that their bad, freely elected government of the P.P.P. has been suppressed.

All the deplorable conditions, the backwardness and stagnation seem to be the result of that wicked government elected by the people and holding office for six months.

Yes, the official boys weep crocodile tears for the plight of Guiana.

And Bookers too, biggest shareholder in the highly profitable enterprise called British Guiana, has stepped in with its own publicity boys, showing what a wonderful place Bookers has made of Guiana.

The only fly in the ointment to spoil these idyllic dreams is that these loudly trumpeted cries against poverty are still nothing but dreams—narcotics administered to the people.

Insofar as housing goes, the "Daily Chronicle" tells us that one hundred families are expected to be housed on the new Costello Houses at La Penitance in the city of Georgetown. These houses are being sold on the never-never.

And here comes the rub. Each family will have to pay $23.00 (£4 16s.) per month for a period of 30 years. This works out to £60 a year or at the end of 30 years the lucky family will have paid £1800 for their proud possession.

Remember that the average yearly income of a sugar worker is about £60, the large amount of unemployment and borderline existence.

When further we are told that allocation of the houses was on a points system according to need and **capacity to pay,** we can well appreciate how much is being done for the poor workers.

It reveals also why so much effort and money is spent on high pressure public relations. The conjuror's expression is appropriate. "Now you see it, now you don't."

Emergency costs

THE British Government announced recently another grant for British Guiana amounting to £250,000. This was to cover the increased cost of maintaining United Kingdom troops in Guiana. **it does not, however, cover the whole increased** costs of the emergency to the local Government.

The Colonial Office feels that "this expenditure is a heavy burden on local revenue and reserves already severely taxed to maintain essential administrative and social services and to finance development."

And, "If necessary, consideration would be given later to the provision of any further assistance of this nature which proved to be needed having regard to the ability of the Colony then to bear the cost of the emergency."

So the big-hearted lions are again making a gesture to pay part of the bill for which they are solely responsible. But then, think how the Guianese are benefiting by having colourful troops doing fancy parades to enliven the Georgetown scene, and outdo even the old Militia Band.

Dominica First

THE island of Dominica is first in the news in this issue, for two reasons.

For the first time this paper brings to its readers a direct news service from that island, sent by a highly responsible correspondent—Secretary of the Dominica Trade Union.

First, also, in that Dominicans have this year celebrated their first May Day ever, showing that West Indian workers are coming more and more into the general stream of international working-class struggle to win the better life they seek.

In this, let us congratulate the Dominican working people, and let all other West Indian workers extend the hand of solidarity to them.

He Who Begs is Given Crumbs

This is the view expressed by the Jamaica PEOPLES FREEDOM MOVEMENT after the first half of Manley's visit to Britain.

THE Hon. N. W. Manley, Q.C., Chief Minister of Jamaica, has been treated in London like just another colonial underling.

The excitement of his arrival in London—with television cameras, newspaper editorials and reception by the Prime Minister to flatter and encourage—that's all over. What really remains? The homeward trip with nothing in his pocket. Empty-handed the warrior comes home—in spite of all the nice things Princess Margaret had to say when she opened the W.I. Students' Centre recently.

He who begs is given crumbs. Why is Manley coming home empty-handed? Why was the insulting suggestion made that he sit around in London for one week waiting for a reply? Why are Wills Issacs and others remaining in London at the cost to taxpayers of over £200 per week?

Firstly: because they are colonials and are being treated the way imperialism thinks colonials should be treated.

Secondly: Manley & Co. might swear and be angry in their London hotel bedrooms at the treatment received, but the Colonial Office knows that by the time they reach Jamaica, they will be quite prepared to go on in the old way bowing and scraping before British imperialism and ready to lick the boots of the colonial overlords.

Colculated Risk

If the Colonial Office really believed that Manley on returning would launch a campaign up and down the country to tell the people how he was treated and demanding "Independence Now," they would treat him with respect. "You can only tek chance wid no-teeth dawg."

If Manley returns and quietly carries on his role of subservience to British Imperialism, the Colonial Office will have won a resounding victory. There will not be an atom of difference from what Busta has done all along: meekly take insults from British Imperialism.

If Manley returns merely to criticise Britain and to try and make "better" deals with America exchanging one set of imperialists for another— then he will be swept into the dustbin of history just like his predecessor.

If Manley returns in a fighting mood to rouse the country and to demand an end to British demination, self-government now for Jamaica, our right to conclude trade agreements with other countries, he will have the support of the overwhelming majority of people.

Show some fight!

Let Manley return to carry out a Socialist policy, to develop a strong internal market, to nationalise the basic industries and to limit the taking out of money by foreign firms.

Only Socialism can develop a strong economy in Jamaica and end unemployment and our dependence on one or two export crops.

Let Manley discard the discredited right-wing policies and stick to Socialist principles—then and only then can our country and its representatives be treated with respect and the pressing economic problems be solved once and for all.

VICTORY MARCH REACHES THE GRENADINES

from Alma Johnson

Secretary,

P. P. P.

of

St. Vincent

THE P.P.P. here again wins in local elections, this time it is the Grenadine island of Bequia in the town of Port Elizabeth. Polling day for elections under a new arrangement for local govermnet in Port Elizabeth, Bequia, took place on Monday 27th June.

The P.P.P., of which the Hon. E. Theodore Joshua is President, won all four seats. This sweeping of the polls on 27th June brought the Party's candidates a total of 1,721 votes, while the nine independents polled a total of 822 votes. The successful candidates are Messrs. C. M. Mitchell, Jafette Samuel Hazell, Casembe Ezekiel Bonadie and Edwin Jeffers Simmons.

Wrong hands

It has been discovered that letters and other documents coming from our headquarters were confiscated by the Burnhamite group of the P.P.P. British Guiana. This was discovered from the fact that we received no reply to our communications sent to the Secretary whom we recognise—Janet Jagan, and also the fact that a postal money order No. W.5 276431 sent to Guiana with an offer to assist the relatives of detainees held in the dungeons of the prison under Governor Savage's interim dictatorship in Guiana, was not received by the Secretary.

Our Party's Executive has requested Jai Narine Singh, who claims to be Secretary of the P.P.P., to return our money order as we do not acknowledge the Burnhamite group of rebels in the P.P.P.

Blind justice

Despite Lennox-Boyd's statement at the 13th Biennial Conference to the effect that Justice would be done to ex-servicemen where Britain owed it to those who served the British Empire in years gone by, ex-servicemen who were shipped away in what has been described notoriously in this country as the abortive Nightingale Expedition of 1920, to the Island of Cuba to find work, have had their war gratuities denied to them. Successive British administrations of the island denied them of their rights. A motion is tabled in the Legislative Council to be debated on 7th July on their behalf.

HEADMASTER IN POLITICS

London, 20th July: Mr .Albert Hyndman, B.A. addressing the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom declared that "left-wing" political parties in the British occupied Caribbean territories were opposed to federation in general.

The ex-Headmaster from TRINIDAD, absolutely charming in presentation, was speaking on the PROS AND CONS OF CARIBBEAN FEDERATION. His understanding of social sciences and political economy was extremely limited notwithstanding claims to successful courses at Oxford University.

The case for the British Colonial Office was presented with much more lucidity and conviction, than any official colonialist could have done. This subservience could well be attributed to the intensity of the difficulties that beset a black man, who attempts to hold a reasonable position in Imperial Britain.

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AT C.L.C. A.G.M.

Labour Party affiliation move defeated

BY a narrow majority of two votes, a Motion proposing the affiliation to the Labour Party was defeated at the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

The motion, put by a young West Indian Electrical Trade Unionist, urged the London Branch to affiliate in order to assist in closing the vast gap between Colonial and British workers. The opportunities that would be offered were inestimable, and this view was not only shared, but extolled by the seconder of the motion, a Secretary of a Labour Party constituency organisation.

Opponents to affiliation cited the past anti-socialist activities of the Labour Party leadership, especially in colonial policy and administration as argument to support their case, to carry the day.

INTERNATIONALISM

This was a successful Conference on Sunday 26th June, 1955, with the delegates neatly packed in the Moody Memorial Hall at 3 Robert Street, N.W.1..

Visitors present represented:

(a) Indian Workers' Association (Coventry).
(b) Kenya Committee (London).
(c) Sierra Leone Students' Union (London).
(d) Anglo-Caribbean Social Club.
(e) Indian Majlis (London).
(f) London Youth Festival Committee.

The Annual Report of the retiring Executive Committee was carefully discussed. Members urged the extension of the political education programme, others wanted increased welfare facilities, especially for new arrivals. The sharpened interest in the Caribbean Labour Congress (L/B) after eight years' activity in London, and the moral respect that it has achieved, was a bouquet to those voluntary members who had worked ceaselessly in the interest of West Indian nationhood.

THE FUTURE

Congratulatory messages not only came from members unavoidably absent in Poland, China, and New Zealand, but also from:

1. The People's Progressive Party (Guiana).
2. The People's Freedom Movement (Jamaica).
3. People's Political Party (St. Vincent).
4. World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Although there was a Credit Balance in the Financial accounts, the largest ever recorded in the C.L.C., there appeared to be widespread dissatisfaction at the funds the organisation was raising to carry out its responsibilities. There seems, notwithstanding a praiseworthy report, to be a multitude of tasks yet to be fulfilled that cannot be undertaken without a drastic overhaul and improvement in the fiscal policy.

PEACE

In conclusion, the 8th A.G.M. went on record unanimously on two major matters for all West Indians:

1. A demand to the British Colonial Secretary and the Governors of the Caribbean Territories to permit absolute freedom of movement of personnel, with special reference to those Trade Unions and political leaders who would meet to discuss and decide a common policy for the benefit of all, now that the plan for an Imperial-type, "British Caribbean Federation" is all but complete.

2. Messages for the British Prime Minister, urging upon him the utmost effort for a lasting peace when he attended the Four Power talks at Geneva, and in support of this policy further messages to Premiers Chou En-Lai and Nehru for their contributions at the historic Afro-Asian Bandung Conference.

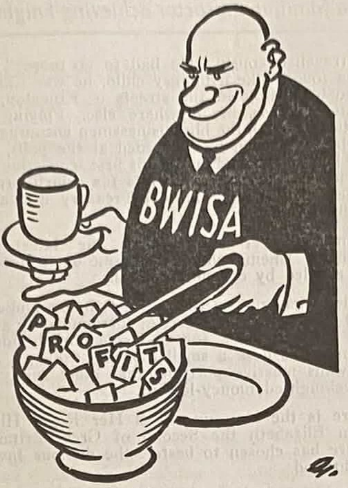
Elections for the Executive Committee were held, and this was followed by dancing and a tip-top performance by the now famous SONG and DANCE GROUP.

BOOK WORLD

Sugar Domination

TO most people sugar is just the sweet crystals dumped in tea. But to the West Indian, the sweet stuff means in turn a livelihood and a bane, a source of joy and misery, dominating his life and land.

Two-fifths of all West Indians depend directly on sugar cane for employment, while for most of the rest, sugar cane weaves its slender stalks through the economy and social make-up of the territory.



The sweetest part of the sugar cane however goes to the foreign capitalists who thrive on the profits and dividends ground out of the back-breaking labour of West Indian workers.

The story is told in concise and readable form by Billy Strachan in **"The Story of a Colony—SUGAR"** (published by Caribbean Labour Congress—L/B, 9d.).

The sranglehold of this single industry on the livelihood of a people is succinctly drawn through all its connections, revealing the economic control held by the foreign monopolists—among them Tate & Lyle and Booker Bros.—and the close political domination they wield.

The excellent cartoons illustrating the text lend even more vividness to the story.

After all the talk about the "mother country" assisting the West Indies by purchasing its sugar at above the "world price," it is interesting to see that both France and the U.S.A., guarantee to buy sugar from their colonies at about 50% more than what Britain pays for West Indian sugar.

The author points out that the typical West Indian worker in comparison with the British worker, is trying to meet a price index twice as high with an income of barely one-fifth, and gives figures to back this up.

But as he says, "The sugar problem cannot be solved in isolation, but in the whole pattern of our advancing democracy, with social services and national independence."

Yes, the story of the West Indies is the story of sugar.

After reading this pamphlet, it is to be hoped that the author who is Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) will continue to dig into the story of a colony, and give us more pamphlets on various aspects of West Indian life.

Certainly no one interested in the West Indies and the background of West Indian immigration should be without this pamphlet.

* * *

ANOTHER INQUIRY

A Board of Inquiry has been set up to investigate a Wage dispute between the Oilfields Employers' Association of Trinidad and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union.

Members of the Board comprise Professor H. S. Kirkaldy, M.A., LL.B., Chairman; Captain H. Leighton-Davies, C.B.E., J.P., and Mr. M. Pounder.

Professor Kirkaldy is Professor of Indusrial Relations at Cambridge University, and a member of the Industrial Disputes' Tribunal; Captain Leighton Davies is Assistant Managing Director, Steel Co. of Wales, Chairman of Welsh Board of Industry and a member of Employers' Panel of Industrial Disputes Tribunal, while Mr. Pounder has been National Organiser of National Union of Railwaymen, 1933-1948, Senior Assistant General Secretary 1948-1953, and a member of Employees' Panel of Industrial Disputes Tribunal. (Trinidad Government Information Office).

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of ......s. ......d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

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The Colour Problem

By Anthony H. Richmond, Pelican Books, 3/6d.

INCREASING notice is being given to the colour question. And since West Indians have been coming to Britain in fair size numbers, a new reality takes shape, bringing home to the ordinary Englishman probably for the first time any serious thought of the "problems" of relationship with coloured people. The matter of colonialism also comes home to Britain.

As a contribution to spreading enlightenment on this question, this popularly priced Pelican book should be welcomed.

Mr. Richmond feels that the expression "colour bar" is not adequate to understand the various aspects it embraces. He breaks it down into three categories —prejudice, discrimination and social separation.

He realised that it was impossible to get to the roots of the problem without an examination of the political, economic and social conditions of the countries from which the immigrants came.

He therefore takes the reader in some detail through British Colonial Africa, South Africa and the West Indies.

Much factual information has been brought together surveying wages, health, discriminatory practices, etc.

Mr. Richmond, who is a lecturer at Edinburgh University, denounces the most blatant forms of discrimination and calls for a vague "co-operation" between the races to solve the conflict in Kenya and other areas of British Africa.

With reference to events in British Guiana in 1953, he merely restates Whitehall's account and apparently accepts this as Gospel truth.

One curious observation he makes is that the upper middle-class person in the West Indies, by virtue of his wealth, education and profession, is "often capable of a more balanced outlook and objective assessment of the problems facing the West Indies today."—Then heaven help the West Indies!

In the chapter on Racial Relations in Britain, Mr. Richmond says that one-third of the people in Britain is tolerant of coloured people, one-third is mildly prejudiced, and one-third is extremely prejudiced.

Out-of-date textbooks get credit as one of the chief offenders in creating false stereotypes about coloured people.

Many criticisms can be made of this book, especially Mr. Richmond's credulous acceptance of the official line in several instances.

But once this has been said, the discerning reader will find much of interest in this book.

R. C.

Puisne Judge for BG

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd, announced the appointment of Mr. N. A. S. Clare, Resident Magistrate, Jamaica, to be Puisne Judge in British Guiana.

Mr. Neville Adolph St. Louis Clare was born in Jamaica in November, 1900, and was educated at Rusea's Secondary School, Jamaica, and Jamaica College, Kingston. He studied law at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1941. He entered the Jamaica Public Service in 1920 as an Assistant Clerk in the Resident Magistrates' Court. He was promoted Deputy Clerk in 1923, Clerk in 1934 and to his present post of Resident Magistrate in 1944.

ARISE SIR BUSTA!

Billy Strachan reminisces on the occasion of a familiar character achieving knighthood

IT was early in 1948 that I first met Sir Alexander Bustamante. This was at the Caxton Hall, LONDON.

I had waited with other West Indians, Africans, Indians, Michael Manley and Carmen Manley, the wife of Douglas Manley, for nearly two hours to hear the CHIEF.

Finally, he arrived; American Buick motor-car, Secretary Gladys Longbridge and an English chauffer. No apology, no by-your-leave, and the tall carrion figure stood up. Like a basking lizard, he gazed glassily first in one direction, then another. Satisfied that all had measured his white mane, he suddenly shrieked in a high pitched voice, that he was the saviour of all JAMAICA, in fact, all Black People. The careless round of derisive laughter that followed, showed how seriously all this was accepted; then pause (fully 4 or 5 minutes), some other wild phrase, then (7 or 8 minutes) and so on . . . . . .

Supreme egoism

It had to be seen to be believed. But the 400 or 500 coloured and European people who had sat silently soon changed to a heckling inferno. Every Jamaican present tried to assist in exposing this maniac, who by his supreme egoism and ignorance, was the British Government's most useful means of misdirecting our peoples' wrath in Jamaica.

Then, he fled. His parthian shot, "if I had you in Jamaica, you could not have done this" .

Sir Alexander Bustamante is not entirely unique. Of a mixed mysterious parentage, he grew up in colonial poverty. He emigrated, he visited Panama, he travelled to the U.S.A. and back again. His own tales take him to Spain and heaven knows not where. Living on your wits, sprung from a rotten colonial environment, where few if any honest opportunities exist, a man develops sharp, self-surviving cunning. Individuals have had to adopt this means, but as has been well proved for the masses, it is suicide.

Corkscrew

Back in JAMAICA, the petty usurer had a wide market and so by early 1938, when the bang went off at FROME, sugar estate that echoed across the Caribbean, the wily Busta beat his chest and started yet another career.

What a path! Through a political corkscrew, the demagogue, fired anti-white slogans, waterfront semi-slave labour rallied and through the streets he marched, right on to the drawing rooms of Lord Lyle, Kings House (Jamaica) and on to Buckingham Palace.

Thousands of ordinary workers followed him. Their hearts, souls and life's material possessions went to him. With them he could have thrown the foreign army of occupation into the Caribbean, not by himself, but all the other territories were astir for revolution. Governor Richards, his predecessor Denham cabled frantically to Whitehall, and the game was on.

Imperialism pulled every dirty trick out of the bag. They smiled benevolently on the cousin Norman Manley; the masses rejected him. He had to outwit the travelled cousin. He had to go more "LEFT." Busta fought like a hungry child, he was Chief. He pulled his pistols in the streets of Kingston, at the slightest excuse, or anywhere else. Playing to his fanatical egoism, the big businessmen encouraged him, and by 1944 when he succeeded at the polls, he was their best friend and one of his first legislative actions was to lift the Excess Profits tax which previously had earned for the national Treasury a quarter of a million Pounds.

Jamaicans yet starve! Ask the latest puppet Premier? Unemployment has gone on to new peaks, only rivalled by consumer prices.

This megalomaniac who still sits in his Duke street office in Kingston, JAMAICA, surrounded by a bigger than life-size bust for a companion beside him. Adorning his desk a smaller one to smile at, and on two walls massive portraits that must surely haunt the beknighted money-lender.

Here is the man on whom Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth the Second of Great Britain and Empire has chosen to bestow the dubious favour of Knighthood.

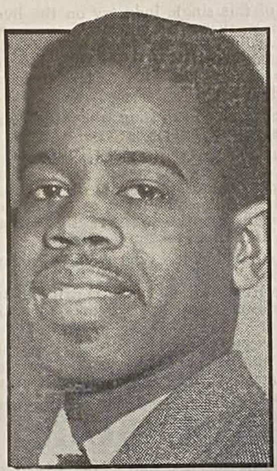
Government Employees Dissatisfied

THE Federation of Unions of Government Employees has informed Government of its disapproval of the Jakeway proposals to the Hands' Report.

Mr. Hands came to British Guiana last year to revise the salary and wage scales for government employees and civil servants. Chief Secretary Jakeway had been asked to make amendments to the Hands' Report which had increased salaries for top bracket Civil Servants while leaving lower paid workers in the same position.

Now the Jakeway proposals have gone even further by granting higher salaries to top-ranking civil servants without improving workers' wages.

Youth say 'We'll paint Warsaw red'



Trevor Carter, Organiser of Youth Committee, C. L. C.

WE'RE going to paint Warsaw red with West Indian calypsos. This was the expression which best showed the ebullient feeling of the 26 members of the West Indian delegation who were going to the Fifth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship in Poland's rebuilt and beautiful capital.

They left Victoria early on the 27th July, and travelled via Dover-Ostend-Bruge-Nuremburg-Brno-Warsaw.

The Festival starts on July 31st and concludes on August 14th. During those two weeks the lucky travellers will enjoy the best time of their lives—but we shall hear more of that when they return.

The delegation left well equipped to take part in the cultural competitions, with a selection of typical dances and songs from the various territories comprising the West Indies.

In the delegation there is a doctor of medicine, two architects, cabinetmakers, railwaymen, and electrician. There is also a student of music and one of economics. And a member of the delegation is entering his work in the architecture exhibition—a proposed town plan for the city of Port-of-Spain.

The delegation will wear white shirts and khaki pants—the girls will wear brightly-flowered skirts.

Better Future

from page 1

and other matters regarding the two wards.

Opening and proper preparation of certain roads.

Appointment of additional Justices of the Peace.

His Honour made comments on some of them he deemed most important, and lengthy discussion followed. Finally he expressed satisfaction and pleasure about the measures adopted by the union. He said in emphatic terms that he was satisfied that the Trade Union Conference deals with not merely trade union aspects, but covers a wide range of activities which in fact deal with matters for the welfare of the community as a whole. He promised to reply officially in connection with each resolution.

After an hour and a quarter all went away with the sign on their faces that the time was well and actively spent, with an aim for a better future for Dominica.

That can materialize, but strongly depends on "social character" of all classes, notwithstanding differences or race, colour, religion or otherwise. The present courses held on co-operation and co-operatives is a notable omen. Let us try and put them into practice, for we all need the help of one another

---

. . . AND THEY FIND MAY DAY

FOR the first time, the Dominica Trade Union celebrated May Day, the existence of which was unknown to a majority of Dominicans.

At 3.30 p.m. on Sunday May 1st, members assembled at the Windsor Park with their President, General Secretary and Executive Council members. From there they were led in a procession by Peter's Jazz Band through New Street, Old Street, King George V Street and Queen Mary Street to Union Headquarters. The officers and E.C. members wore reddish pink sashes.

At the hall, the President Mr. C. Loblack after his inspiring introductory remarks called on the General Secretary, Mr. Joseph, who outlined the whole significance of May Day or "Labour Day."

He introduced to the audience its origin and significance, as reproduced by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to D.T.C., its affiliate, in 1952.

Workers' Blood

The people were astounded to learn that May Day is celebrated in America (where it originated) for the past 69 years, and that almost all the West Indies has been celebrating it for many years.

Mrs. Phillys Shand Allfrey, Dominican, member of the Labour Party of Britain (now member of D.T.U.), then related her experiences of May Day celebration in England.

The officers expressed their hopes that in future all workers will take part to make the function more successful, but were grateful to see how actively the respondents played their part with much enthusiasm, with banners flying and advertisement cards brandishing, making conspicuous their sincerity in joining to commemorate Labour's Victory.

In his closing address, the Secretary explained that red tie and other emblems worn by many a trade union leader is not a communistic or revolutionary sign as some may think, but symbolizes the blood shed by pioneers of labour of old through tyrannical treatment. Also it is a sign of bravery to undergo the difficulties which are likely to be met.

The function closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

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Trinidad obeys dictator

IN their bolder days, the apologists for imperialism, re-echoed by those few colonials who had achieved some eminence within the system, would point to the political life of the South American republics and ask us to count our blessings.

Today, the Colonial Office has admitted a new partner to control its colony of Trinidad—a Venezuelan soldier-dictator.

Early this May, Lt.-Col. Perez Jimenez deported an International Labour Office official who pleaded that democratic rights be granted to the country's unions. But three months before, in February, the Colonel's long arm had stretched to Trinidad and secured the expulsion of some five exiles, members of the Democratic Action Party, legal government of their country.

Democratic Action came to power in 1947 and, like British Guiana's P.P.P., through the first free election held under universal suffrage. In 1948 at the Bogota Pan-American Conference it demanded an end to all colonialism in the Western Hemisphere. That same year, again like the P.P.P., it was overthrown by force. The army leaders played the role of the British forces, the old cry of communism was raised, unions were dissolved, leaders imprisoned, tortured and shot.

OIL STAKES

U.S. oil investors, like U.S. Canadian bauxite interests, sat back with a temporary feeling of safety. For D.A. had dared cast its eyes on the fantastic profits made from their country's oil—second highest export in the world—and had begun by demanding, and securing, 50% of the profits.

Beginning in 1949 into Trinidad, traditional haven, trickled D.A. party members. Throughout 1951 and 1952, the dictatorship sought to obtain the expulsion, specifically, of Gramboa Marcano, ex-Senator and prominent labour leader. In November 1952 an election revealed continued mass support for the deposed government whose supporters demanded a greater cut on oil and iron ore exports, spoke of nationalising the oil and iron deposits, demanded that refining and milling of 50% of these two exports should be carried on in Venezuela.

In reply Perez Jimenez renewed his pressure on the Trinidad Government; this time the approach was novel.

'COMMUNIST'

The Pan-American Conference at Caracas in February 1954 was to resolve, spontaneously of course, "to fight Communism." D.A. was obviously "Communist"—it had been elected by a majority; it sought to control the profits of foreign capital; it stood for more industrialisation of the country's resources; it was against colonialism. Therefore democratic Trinidad must do its little bit. By March 1954 his plea had effect and the first four exiles were deported, including Senator Gamboa.

By then Latin-American opinion was aroused. The "Trinidad Guardian," the "Trinidad Evening News'" had started a bitter campaign against the Government's action. The deposed president, Romulo Betancourt, protested to the Foreign Office. All to no avail. Governor Rance was being acclaimed on his visit to Caracas. Trinidad exporters were promised a cut in the 30% surtax levied on Trinidad exports.

LONG ARM

In July 1954 two of the exiles embarked on a vessel sailing to the Northern B.W.I. islands, where, Trinidad immigration authorities promised, they would be allowed to land. They were refused at every single port. On their return they were refused permission in Port-of-Spain and lived for four months on the vessel. In November they escaped ashore. For two months they were at liberty, then in February the Colonel's arm fell. They were ordered to leave.

Meanwhile in England two questions had been raised in the House of Commons. "What did the Government know of the expulsion of Senator Gramboa?" a Labour M.P. asked the Colonial Secretary. The Minister regretted that he had no information. Then a written question was forwarded the Minister. His reply was equally unsatisfactory. In April the "New Statesman and Nation" raised the question again. It may be added that according to confidential sources all Venezualan exiles will get their marching orders.

This whole discreditable affair flashlights life in the murky underground of colonial rule, where deportation and banning have long been standard techniques of all W.I. Governors.

It is also clear that, first, a tacit understanding exists between a colonial Governor and leading South American dictator in the dictator's campaign to crush democratic elements. Second, that however "advanced" the colonial constitution, it is the Governor, the Colonial Office, who determine policy as they see fit, in spheres they deem important. Both spell a third danger which all progressive West Indians must combat.

Is our glorified Crown colony of a Federation meant to be rallied, in the name of the W.I. people, on the side of the most reactionary elements in the Western Hemisphere?

What further has been the immediate pay-off for the subservience to the military dictator? So far Trinidad exports still pay that 30% surtax. Perez Jimenez has made a fool of us, the "Trinidad Guardian" says. Restrictions on West Indian immigrants still remain. And to cap it the Little Colonel has thundered that Federation or no Federation, Venezuela will still demand her rightful territories in B.G. stolen by Britain in 1890!

Miguel

ANTIGUAN

bathers making merry at the seaside on Whit-Monday

H.M.S.O. photo from booklet 'Introducing the Caribbean Colonies'

MANLEY

from page 1

seemed satisfied to report, what "I" had done, what "I" shall do, and how "I" shall succeed.

He did admit that he and the Colonial Office seemed to think of the same thing along the same lines, but with special reference to the welfare of West Indians immigrating. A harsh admission, that might not have been made elsewhere, but Manley appeared to consider that this audience would not fully exploit this admission.

Arriving more than an hour behind schedule, he spoke for about 50 minutes. There was very little fire in his speech, but any reference to revolutionary changes for the better was extremely well received by cheers and applause.

Question time was 15 minutes. What followed, showed the cynic that his audience were not all the dumb-bells that he had anticipated.

Witty cynicisms

Queries as to whose fault were the deplorable conditions that he had spoken of as "beyond endurance," what policy did he have as a solution, what restrictions did he propose on foreign capital and the exports of their profits, what comment did he have to make on the housing scandal for West Indian immigrants, all bubbled from below. All received their shower of cold water, witty cynicisms on doctrinaire socialism and any excuse that the practiced barrister has used so adeptly on his passage to Her Majesty's Chief Minister in JAMAICA.

Disappointment shrouded these West Indians who had come to listen and to learn. Woefully, some of the more fortunate ones in the way of an academic education, commented to your Reporter, "Oh, he knew he was talking to illiterates, so . . ."

A sad commentary!

Yankee Colonialism

PUERTO RICO: It would be "ruinous" to apply U.S. minimum wage laws to Puerto Rico, Governor Luis Munoz Marin declared last month.

U.S. labour has been urging this to counter the tendency of U.S. companies to run away to Puerto Rico, where the average wage is 50 cents an hour—and some glovemaking operations are paid as little as 22½ cents.

The Weston Instrument Co. was pointed to as an example at a recent Labour Department hearing. According to a representative of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers' Union, the company's lowest wage group is paid $1.66 an hour in New Jersey, while pay at its Puerto Rican plant averages 51 cents an hour or less than ⅓rd the U.S. wage.

GUATEMALA

UNDER the Arbenz land reform, Guatemala expanded its agricultural output and became an exporter of products it previously imported. This happened in relation to corn, rice and cotton.

Now according to "Excelsior" (Mexico City 4/2). Guatemala is once again importing corn—staple of the Guatemalan diet—from Mexico. (From Latin America Today).

CHARGE THAT FAILED

JAMAICA.—A charge brought against Rolly Simms of committing a breach of the Trade Union Law was dismissed by the Magistrate.

Police witnesses testified that Simms had drove up with his car at the Raheen estate and told sugar workers that a strike was on, and that they should demand wages which were due to them; further that if the management wanted the work done they should do it themselves.

Mr. Simms was successfully defended by Mr. Richard Hart. Rolly Simms is President of the Unemployed Workers' Association and is an official in the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions. Before returning to Jamaica early last year, he was a leading worker in the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

P.P.P. elections

BRITISH GUIANA.—Preparations are being made by the People's Progressive Party to elect its leading body—the General Council—on August 27-29. Despite severe restrictions imposed on leading party members, 112 nominations have been received, but this number will be reduced when it is verified that each candidate can stand for only one position. The election will be by ballot.

Jamaican papers wouldn't print this letter — —

BUT "Caribbean News" readily opens its columns to Mr. Ferdinand Smith, President of the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions, who originally addressed this letter to the "Daily Gleaner," but it was not published:

Editor "Daily Gleaner":

"In your issue of 16th June appeared a news story date-lined Geneva, June 15 (Reuter): in which Mr. T. A. Kelly, Jamaican "Workers' Observer," and acting president of the National Workers' Union, at the I.L.O. Conference, is quoted as refusing Soviet charges that the United States indulged in discrimination against imported workers.

"This I can categorically deny from my personal knowledge," Mr. Kelly is quoted as saying, and then going on to say: "I am in a position to advise this conference that contracts negotiated for foreign workers provide specifically for non-discrimination and that the wages paid must be exactly similar to those paid to American workers for similar work."

I am assuming that the above refers to farm workers imported into America. This being so, one must wonder at the source of Mr. Kelly's "personal knowledge." For, had he consulted any of the hundreds of returned farm workers, he could have readily ascertained truth of such charges. But let a Jamaican farm worker, on the spot, set our N.W.U.'s leader straight:

HUMILIATION

"$2 A DAY—PLUS HUMILIATION!" "A Negro 'off-shore' worker from Jamaica reports only 45c. an hour, less a big daily deduction for food. This leaves less than $2 a day 'send home' pay. He also reports that Jamaican workers are warned against joining a labour union while here in the land of the free. Threatened penalty—immediate deportation! He also complains bitterly about racial discrimination on the plantations—says it's even more humiliating, and frightening than his native British-Jamaican brand." (From the "Buletin" of the Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee—Houston, Texas, December 1954).

GRAIN OF SALT

Were this the only display of utter ineptness on the part of Mr. Kelly at Geneva, one might attribute it to lack of proper information or an overzealous desire to keep in the good grace of his I.C.F.T.U.'s over-lords, but not so on local issues where this excuse could not hold.

Speaking on the problems facing Jamaican workers at home, Kelly is quoted in the same news story as saying: "... the great problem in Jamaica was displacement of workers in industry consequent on the policy of mechanisation."

This, in a country which is only now scratching at the surface of industrialisation, where it is acknowledged by "Public Opinion" the mouthpiece of Mr. Kelly's union, that 400,000 Jamaicans are unemployed! Surely Mr. Kelly should know that the few workers displaced by mechanisation would be but a grain of salt in our unemployment ocean of fresh water?

It is rather strange that a "labour leader" couldn't recognise what, even such empire mouthpiece, Lord Beaverbrook's "Evening Standard" has given voice to, though in a limited way. In one of its issues during 1954 the paper declared: "One out of every four Jamaicans was unemployed—an understatement, "and those who were lucky enough to have a job were chronically underpaid!"

(Mr. Smith here relates how Mr. Greaves Hill, Permanent Secretary and Labour Advisor, had extolled at the conference how free labour was in bargaining with employers and the encouragement given by government to the island's trade unions; when previous to this statement, he himself had written to Mr. Smith saying that the government Labour Dept. would have nothing to do with the J.F.T.U. or its affiliates).

And now, Mr. Editor, to crown it all, in today's "Gleaner" we are treated to a gem, by no other than your own Mr. Fletcher, Managing Director of the Gleaner Company:

"With regard to the colonies for which I can speak (the British West Indies), most of these anti-colonial speeches are complete nonsense, projecting total wrong facts and wrong conceptions. We are not down-trodden; we are not exploited in the sense suggested; we are not oppressed; we are not enslaved; we are not subjected to any form of political, economic or other tyranny. We are happy ..."!

So says the employer's representative to the I.L.O.'s Conference.

WE ARE NOT

Shall we call on the "Standard" to answer all these. "We are nots?" In a leading article headed: "Squalor in the Sun," as quoted in the "Star" of 21/4/54, the "Evening Standard's" writer described Britain's policy toward Jamaica as: "A shameful catalogue of neglect." Continuing, the writer referred to Jamaica as: "That unhappy island," if things are bad for Jamaicans in Britain, "they are definitely worse for Jamaicans in their own island..."

UP TO DATE

It is quite understandable why these "representatives"—Messrs Kelly, Hill and Fletcher, adopted the line they did at Geneva. Imperialism's mid-Twentieth Century approach toward maintaining their dominance over those they would continue to oppress and exploit is to create and develop a class of "native" with whom they "can work," in their game of imperialist domination.

(Signed) Ferdinand C. Smith.

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West Indian Adventure

I'VE just come across a most interesting book that I think all West Indian sport lovers should read. It is E. W. Swanton's book, **"West Indian Adventure,"** published in this edition by the Sportsman's Book Club, and originally published by Museum Press Ltd. The author is of course the well-known cricket commentator popular the world over.

He gives a comprehensive report on the 1953-54 England v. West Indies cricket tournament, the series ending in a draw. West Indies won the first two tests in Jamaica and Barbados, while England won in British Guiana, drew the fourth in Trinidad, and won the fifth in Jamaica.

Something I found interesting was that the author pointed out that on many occasions the cricketing spirit and carnival atmosphere common to West Indian cricket were hampered both by the attitude of English players towards the West Indian people on and off the playing field, and the anger fomenting role played by the press in the West Indies and England.

Swanton stated clearly that never in the history of an English touring side had so much harm been done to English cricket and the so-called mother country.

From this we can see that instead of the tour serving the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between Master and Slave, it disclosed the wolf in sheep's clothing.

E. W. Swanton is a very fair and reasonable critic in the cricketing world. He said the West Indian players, barring one incident, maintained a conduct and discipline worthy of test players.

That incident was when an umpire gave a young player out caught and he hesitated to move towards the pavilion, and was later sent back by his captain to apologise to the umpire.

Swanton said that of the eight umpires, six of them, judging by the evidence of this tour, would be welcome in the first-class list in England, nor he thinks there are two better umpires anywhere than Ewart and Burke.

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CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

OCTOBER ★ ★ 1955

Growing Militancy in Guiana

from CHEDDI JAGAN

Two years ago in October the elected Government of the Peoples' Progressive Party of British Guiana was forcibly dissolved and the Constitution, granted only six months earlier, was smashed by Britain's Imperialist Government.

On the anniversary of this foul deed, Cheddi Jagan, ader of the P.P.P. contributes s article.

THE first significant event on the labour front since the suspension of the British Guiana Constitution and the expulsion of the Government formed by the Peoples' Progressive Party in October, 1953, is the recent strike of the Sawmill Workers. More than 1200 workers downed tools, and closed all the major sawmills in the city of Georgetown, the capital of British Guiana.

Negotiations with the Employers' organisation, the Forest Products Associations, reached a deadlock. Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union, on behalf e workers, had put forward a 5-point demand, included a daily wage of $3.52 (14s. 8d.

The Sawmill Workers' demand for $3.52 per day is in line with the wage claim recently made by the Federation of Unions of Government Employees. Despite the strong arguments put up based on the above facts, the Government, about two months ago, agreed to pay a minimum of only $2.52 per day, however, making it retro-active to January 1954.

The Forest Products Association was not prepared to pay even this Government minimum wage, although since 1949, the Sawmill workers' minimum had been tied to that of Government. British Guiana Timbers, a Colonial Development subsidiary, has gone one step further. They countered the Union's strike call with a notice of non-recognition.

SIGNIFICANCE

This strike is of particular significance since the trade union movement has not fully recovered from the disruption and disunity following the removal from office nearly two years ago of the P.P.P. Govern- t. That offensive of the British Government gave ie to the reactionary trade union leaders.

November 1953, some Right Wing and Company unions unconstitutionally dissolved the old militant

(continued on page 5)

TRINIDAD BOSSES REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE

Port of Spain, Trinidad.—The board of Inquiry investigating the dispute between the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union and the Employers' Association, recommended an increase of 10 per cent in standard wage rates in the oil industry. The Union has expressed its approval of this award.

The Trinidad Leaseholds Oil Company, however, employing about 10,000 of Trinidad's 18,000 oil workers, repudiated the report of the Board of Inquiry and withdrew from the Employers' Association. Trinidad Leaseholds broke off negotiations with the workers' Union and announced that they will introduce new wage rates without reference to the Union.

The Company announced also that it would stop deducting Union subscriptions from the workers' pay.

Georgetown.—The police have refused Dr. Jagan, deposed premier of this country, and leader of the Peoples' Progressive Party, permission to travel to London to attend a conference of the Movement for Colonial Freedom. This organisation is supported by several Members of Parliament, local Labour Parties, co-op guilds, and trade unions.

Police have also refused to vary restrictions on Dr. Jagan, which limit his movements, even for the care of his patients, to the boundaries of the city of Georgetown.

What was the real reason for sacking Jamaican preacher?

NEWS last month that Dr. J. L. Wilson, Bishop of Birmingham, would not confim the appointment of Dr. Marcus James to a local diocese, came as a low blow to all West Indians.

"Caribbean News" reported Dr. Marcus James' projected appointment in our May 1954 issue.

The brilliant Jamaican Doctor of Divinity has already made his mark on the international level, and his appointment to a Birmingham locality was some mark of respect shown at least by the church. Here was a man who could from his office and wide experience help to smooth the many rough edges that resulted from immigrating West Indians settling down amongst British workers.

Pettifogging excuse

Finance and Housing? These are the petty fogging excuses that have been put forward for the failure to confirm Dr. James' appointment. Any wonder that he is very aptly reported as commenting, that he regrets that such material matters, should hinder him in his mission.

What is the Truth?

Press reports coming out of Jamaica during August this year, tipped Dr. James as Suffragan Bishop of Jamaica, now that a coloured man the Rev. P. Gibson has been elevated to the Bishopric there on the retirement of European Dr. Dale. Dale was not loved in Jamaica. Dale's farewell carried with it no

(continued on page 2)

St. Kitts losing skilled men

ALTHOUGH Jamaica is the biggest single source of West Indian emigration to Britain, emigrants are increasingly departing from other smaller territories. One comes across more and more West Indians from Montserrat, Antigua, and other small islands.

St. Kitts is also becoming prominent. With a population of 50,000, over 500 Kitticians have left their homeland in recent months. Many of these are skilled workers, and fears have been expressed that if the trend continues, the island will be losing some of its most skilled men.

"New Commonwealth" has this comment: "Opportunities and variety of work are limited. It is not altogether a matter of going to a big country to earn plenty in a short time. In St. Kitts, land is at a premium. The young people feel they are too caged in and emigrate they must, for better for worse."

WOW!! — Some Friendship!

This member of the West Indian delegation certainly enjoyed the Festival in Warsaw. (See story on page 4)

Grenada and Barbados severely hit by storm

THE terrific hurricane sweeping the Caribbean has wreaked heavy toll in lives and damage to West Indian islands.

Reports indicate that the little island of Grenada suffered heaviest with about 80 dead, while tiny Cariacou, just off Grenada suffered 38 dead. In Barbados, 27 people are reported killed. Many more casualties have been inflicted with thousands homeless and severe damage to crops, livestock and communications within the islands.

NOTE THE

NEW ADDRESS

Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch)
& Caribbean News
100, Rochester Row, Victoria, London, S.W.I.

★ EDITORIAL ★

Labour and Colonies

THE 54th Annual Conference of the Labour Party taking place at Margate from October, 10th to 14th, is another big event for the Labour movement, following the T.U.C. Congress earlier last month.

Of direct interest to West Indians and other colonial people are motions on the Agenda dealing with the colonies.

Three resolutions put by constituency Labour Parties deal with "Aid to Underdeveloped Countries". These resolutions pose in some form or another the raising of colonial living standards by increasing spending on economic development.

While such sentiments are to be welcomed, one cannot help detecting a general weakness in that they do not go beyond philanthropic proposals.

There is a certain moralising tone of doing something **for** the undeprivileged, of spending more money through welfare schemes, but no conception of what the colonial people can do once exploitation is stopped and national independence achieved.

Under the section "Dependent Territories", three resolutions are tabled, the best of which is from the Electrical Trades Union.

This calls for "the withdrawal of all armed forces from the colonial territories, and the granting to the colonial peoples the democratic right to elect their own governments, and pledges its support to the colonial peoples to obtain complete national independence".

It is to be hoped that in the interests of both the British and colonial peoples, Conference will give serious thought to this motion which contains the essence for a policy of really ending colonialism.

For too long official Labour Party colonial policy has been as the liberal wing of the Tories.

It is high time Party policy be changed to step in line with the advanced aspirations of the colonial peoples, rather than be used to defend the interests of imperialism under the guise of a theory of gradualism and high sounding phrases about development and aid taken out of context with national independence.

Leaders have shed many crocodile tears about the backwardness of colonial peoples, and the need for 'sacrifice' by the British people to help them.

And of course here are sincere Labourites who would be prepared to make this sacrifice. We feel, however, that far from entailing sacrifice, the liberation of Britain's colonies would mean freeing resources for mutual advancement in friendship, opening up a new era in our relationship. The money now spent to hold on to the colonies would be used to better purpose, the long period of military service for British youth would be unnecessary, and big new trading opportunities would become available.

If those people in the British Labour Movement who are honestly prepared to sacrifice to help the colonial people were to see the question in this new light, how much more strength would be added to their struggle, in the firm conviction that in fighting for liberation of their colonial brothers they are at the same time carrying on the best fight for the advancement of the British people!

Coloured Workers

DELEGATES representing 8 million British workers unanimously went on record against racial discrimination, at the Trades Union Congress at Southport last month. Congress welcomed coloured colonial workers into the movement.

The full resolutions are printed on this page.

Now that the T.U.C. officially has expressed itself against any form of racial discrimination, the job remains of getting this realised in action.

There are still doubts and fears and prejudices among many workers and trade unionists in Britain concerning coloured workers, and the decisions taken by the T.U.C. must now find its way down to the rank and file trade unionist.

If the T.U.C. and affiliated unions would now use the resources and machinery at their disposal to get these ideas percolated through the movement by means of propaganda and attractive literature, it would go a long way in orienting British workers to relations with their fellow workers from the colonies.

Also needed is propaganda and literature for introducing colonial workers to the traditions and principles of British trade unionism, so that they are able to participate fully in the movement.

Unity of workers of whatever colour is surely the crux of the march to better conditions and standards.

T.U.C. Goes on Record Against Colour Bar

THE British Trades Union Congress meeting in Southport, unanimously adopted three resolutions of immediate concern to West Indian Workers.

Two opposed racial discrimination and the third tackled economic development; these are the resolutions:—

"This Congress condemns all manifestations of racial discrimination or colour prejudice whether by governments, employers or workers. It urges the General Council to lose no opportunity to make the trade union attitude on this issue perfectly clear and to give special attention to the problems emerging in this country from the influx of fellow workers of other races with a view to removing causes of friction and preventing exploitation".

(Civil Service Clerical Association)

"This Congress affirms its complete opposition to all forms of racial discrimination in whatever country it manifests itself".

(Association of Cinematograph and Allied Technicians).

Development

"This Congress welcomes the workers from overseas undeveloped Commonwealth areas into Britain and into employment in British industry. It opposes all attempts based on the colour bar to deny accepted rights to citizens of the British Commonwealth.

"Congress, however, is of the opinion that these coloured workers are driven from their homeland by poverty and social insecurity which are due mainly to unbalanced economies by long years of Colonial exploitation. Congress is firmly of the opinion that immediate steps should be taken to develop the resources of Colonial and Commonwealth territories within the British Commonwealth so as to establish balanced economies which would make it unnecessary for the native populations to seek employment and security elsewhere".

(Chemical Workers' Union.)

One has only to add that true economic development to serve West Indian interests can only come with political independence and a democratic federation.

More Coconuts . . .

Kingston, Jamaica.—After years of setback following the hurricanes of 1944 and 1951, Jamaica's coconut industry is experiencing a revival.

Total production of copra is expected to be 11,000 tons this year, and an export surplus is expected.

In the next few years about 100,000 more coconut trees will be added to the 4,200,000 now bearing.

. . . and Sugar

Latest estimate for the Jamaican sugar crop is now put at 395,297 tons. During July 4,000 tons of sugar were exported to the United Kingdom, and 18,025 tons went to Canada.

B.G. Tries For Loan

Georgetown, British Guiana.—The financial Secretary of British Guiana, Mr. W. O. Fraser, told the Legislative Council that he will ask permission to raise a loan of 60 million West Indian dollars to carry out the colony's five-year development programme.

NEW AIR SERVICE

A new air service is to be started by British West Indian Airways, using latest Viscount turbo-prop airliners. The new run will touch New York Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Barbados and Trinidad, and is expected to commence on November 5th.

Preacher

from page 1

weeping, on the contrary, when news came through of the promotion of 'Bish' Gibson, former Headmaster of Kingston College, (secondary boys' school) jubilation went wild both in lay and clerical circles at the smashing of another coloured hurdle in the v of colonial people.

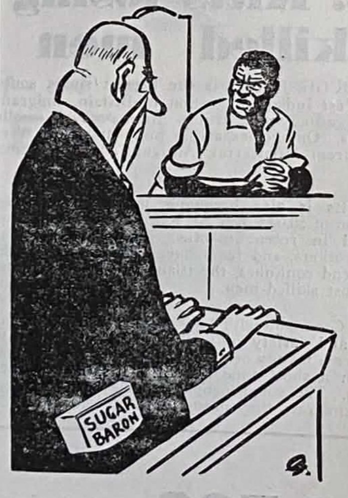
Dr. James, a scholarly young priest of 34 years is a modern churchman of wider vision. Intensely interested in the youth of the world, especially West Indians, he has travelled widely in the U.S.A., throughout the British Isles, and found his way to Moscow, as personal representative of Canon Collins of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Since then, as a guest of the World Federation of Democratic Youth he has visited China, during off-time his post as a chaplin to London University. Typical of this eagerness to know and understand the problems confronting youth in the close arena of international affairs, Dr. James recently attended the Fifth World Youth Festival in Poland, where amongst other activities, he freely conducted a Christian service with interested youth.

From his powerful sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral denouncing racial atrocities by Europeans in Kenya, Africa, Dr. James has won a place amongst the most moral in mankind.

Who could more fittingly serve the young peo of Birmingham during 1955 and after . . ?

Dr. Wilson, as Bishop of Birmingham has rejected this man—We all Demand, Why?



"...a very good job. We need more of that kind of stuff for these parts."
CHEDDI JAGAN

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Order from Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch)

ERIC WILLIAMS *versus* CARIBBEAN COMMISSION

BOOK WORLD

TWO tiny gems have just come out of the iron-curtained Caribbean. Both are from Trinidad. Both are by Dr. Eric Williams.

The booklets have come about as a result of the Caribbean Commission, going lower than ever in their dirty tricks and finally abandoning one of their ablest stalwarts—Dr. Eric Williams.

In 'My relations with the Caribbean Commission 1943-1955' Dr. Williams spills all the beans about the struggle that he has had to maintain until now a post that fitted his academic distinction. The star scholar from Queens Royal College (Trinidad) who went on to Oxford University bagging sundry honours then lecturing at Howard University, U.S.A., where he produced his excellent 'Capitalism and Slavery', followed by 'Negro in the Caribbean', tells a sad tale of a lesson that took him twenty-years to learn. In his own words:

> "I learned then, how the imperialists operate—by condemning colonials without giving them a hearing".

Thousands of West Indians know and understand what colonial status means. It does not really take a University to teach the lesson, but, thank goodness [illegible] Williams has given a pretty factual survey of how the imperialists treat one of our brothers who has hardly been equalled in the field of sociological research and its allied subjects.

★

Williams explains the existence of the Caribbean Commission and its predecessor, the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission as a 'part of the price extracted by the United States for aid to the European Governments (Britain, France and Holland) during the war'. He confirms suspicions of the most sincere, understanding West Indian politicians that, as far as the West Indies is concerned there has not been really any need for the Commission. The West India Royal Commission 1938, had provided all the necessary information; but contrarily for the imperial powers, it was important to have a listening post in the British West Indies. It is difficult to understand how the author stomached the insults and assisted this body he now ruthlessly exposes so well.

"My Relations . . ." is a very thorough, detailed account, carrying with it several important political lessons, on how we pay, indirectly, for the sponsoring of an organisation working against us, providing jobs to second-rate officials from the metropolitan countries:

> "A Dutch official was appointed to my staff over my protests, precisely because he was related by marriage to one of the co-Chairmen.
>
> "His work was absolutely worthless and I had to transfer a part of it to a Jamaican economist . . ."

Elsewhere, he draws another lesson when he reported comments of appreciation from his mixed staff, thus,

> "I take away something more valuable—the appreciation of my junior colleagues.
>
> "It was signed by 55 staff members, 51 of them West Indian, the remaining four non-West Indian . . .
>
> "Two are English. one French, one American . . . Their association with my West Indian colleagues I deeply appreciate, not only in itself, but also because it shows that, in our struggle for improvement, we can count on assistance from many non-West Indians in our midst, not offered on the basis of master and servant relationship. All foreigners, Ladies and Gentlemen, are not imperialists".

The publication, priced at 12 cents (West Indian currency) was published by Dr. Williams himself, of 17 Lady Chancellor Road, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. There is one marked weakness throughout his otherwise worthy denunciation. Eric Williams seems wholly negligent that he alone, brilliant scholar as he is, can never successfully fight off the menace he so well describes. The word "I", with the inference that he was "Mr. Caribbean", shows how much he has seen the struggle as one of David and Goliath.

There are other conclusions that I could argue, when he touches on political subjects, but let it be recognised that this booklet can be of enormous value to those of slow conviction.

How I hope that Dr. Williams will fully accept the implications with what must be involved when he strikes a cogent note on pp. 49,

> "As more and more colonial areas shake off imperialist control, the pressure is increasing on the remaining areas of imperialist influence to provide jobs for outsiders".

Billy Strachan

American View

Kingston, Jamaica.—Mr. Adlai Stevenson, American Democratic Party's presidential candidate, described Jamaica and other British occupied territories in the West Indies as an outstanding example of Britain's contribution to world development.

He was speaking here in connection with the official celebration of 300 years of British rule in Jamaica.

Mr. Stevenson referred to the rapid rise in the independence of subject peoples, particularly under British education. as the most significant feature of the middle of the century.

Perhaps he did not see the slums and unemployed of this "paradise isle".

BOYCOTT
ANN
SHELLEY
FACTORY
TEACH ANN SHELLEY'S
MANAGERS
WORKERS
DEMAND
RESPECT
125
WORKERS
VERSUS
ONE
MAN

BLACK and WHITE TOGETHER

LONDON, Sept. 21.

WHITE and coloured workers have been on strike for a month now at the Ann Shelley clothing factory in Stepney. They are refusing to work subject to the abuse, insults, and vile language from a floor manager.

One time previously, as a result of complaints against this man and a stoppage, the Management removed him from his position. But he has been reinstated and has once more resumed his old ways.

The firm now refuses to do anything about it, or to negotiate with the Trade Union to end the dispute.

For one long month, at the time of writing, the workers have been out in defence of their rights. Of the 125 employees about 20 are coloured.

This strike is demonstrating in action the unity of workers, black and white, of English, West Indian, and Pakistani men and women.

Very heartening is the spirit shown by the coloured workers, who are united with their white colleagues.

Mr. H. Regal, factory convener, told me: "The coloured workers are wonderful. They are solidly out with us. It's really remarkable to see coloured women earning £5 or £6 a week and having to pay around £2 5s. a week for a single furnished room, paying bus fares and coming across London regularly to stand in the picket line". Mr. Regal has been in the trade union movement for 31 years, and he should know.

I spoke to three Jamaican girls this morning on the picket line outside the factory in Commercial Road. And it was a good sight to watch these pretty girls with their placards, including the slogan "125 Wofkers Against One Manager".

The girls would rather not have their names in print, but one young woman from Jamaica who had worked for Ann Shelley for two years, showed keeness in putting up a fight. The incident occurred in another shop, but she also came out in sympathy.

A girl from Manchester, Jamaica, had been working at Ann Shelley for three years, while another from Kingston had been employed for two years. Their English mates on the picket line with them were full of praise for the West Indian girl's tenacity in the long, bitter struggle.

Splitting tactics

The Management is trying to get strike-breakers from outside the factory, and their show windows are stuck up with advertisements of vacancies. Few outsiders have stepped across the picket lines, however.

The Management made an attempt to split the workers, when they sent a telegram to a coloured woman asking her to get her friends to come in, without success, however.

They also held back the coloured workers' pay packets when the white workers had already been paid off. This was seen as an attempt also to separate the workers.

These efforts to split the workers have led to nought, for the unity displayed on the picket lines between black and white is teaching an important lesson for the whole working class.

A leaflet issued by the strikers says:

> "The firm seem determined to break the spirit of the workers, but they will not succeed. We fight for a principle. The principle that no manager shall speak to workers as though we were living in the middle ages. We fight for the right of workers to have self respect. We fight to teach the management that 125 workers are worth more to them than an insulting manager".

C.N. Reporter

Clothing
workers
stand
together
NOT
INSU
SUPPORT
THE
SHELLEY
STRIKERS

[LEFT] *Ann Shelley clothing workers stand together outside the factory.*

★

[TOP RIGHT PICTURE] *West Indian and English workers show unity on the picket line.*

West Indies quartet wins Festival prize

The cultural ensemble giving a performance of West Indian Rhythm

by a Special Correspondent

WARSAW, August.

SUCCESS crowned the cultural appearances of the West Indies' delegation to the 5th World Youth Festival here. Its percussion quartet (ping-pong, conga, drum, bongo drums, and maracas) won second prize in the folk music competition. It was indeed a happ moment when the prize, a laureate medal an four diplomas, was presented.

The quartet introduced music in a popular medium, which was well received by a large audience. When it had rendered its two selections it was boisterously called back on the stage. But encores are not allowed in competitions. Nevertheless, the quartet had to return. It struck a few bars to quieten the appreciative audience, then danced off stage to renewed applause.

As it had won a laureate prize, it participated in concerts of the laureates. These were held in at Philharmonic Opera House, and the Palace of Culture and Sciences, respectively.

At the second concert, the quartet played inspired music. Earle Lewis, on the ping-pong, found a mood that well suited his fellow musicians. They responded brilliantly. The thunderous applause and an encore, which the audience requested, was well deserved by both sides. It was then that the quartet got the slow, resounding hand clap—a festival sign of merit.

Triumphal tour

The West Indies' delegation of 26 left London in fine festival mood. It kept this mood throughout the journey to Warsaw. So, too, did the peace-loving delegates from 130 countries find Warsaw prepared to greet her guests.

Four days later its cultural programme commenced.

The highlight was the West Indies' National show. this lasted over ane-and-a-half hours, and was performed to a full house at the Theatre of Contempor Arts. Calypsos, dances, music and folk songs of West Indies made an auspicious bow in Warsaw. This resulted with the group having to fulfil numerous engagements.

Apart from its scheduled programme, it made several impromptu appearances. Of these, its concert in Stalin Plaza was the most successful. As soon as the group arrived, it was surrounded by a huge crowd. This crowd grew to thousands by the time the concert ended.

The group took part in an international show, which was heard over Radio Warsaw. It recorded and made a T.V. film for Radio Warsaw, and made a short film for the Soviet Union.

From its all round performance, one can say, it sure was something there. It is to be hoped that this fine young group would keep moving forward. The West Indies has much to offer in song, dance, calypso, and music, and with breathless anticipation we look forward to their performance in the 6th World Youth Festival in Moscow.

Embraces, kisses and gifts made up for language

THE Festival is now over, but the memory of this great event will remain forever with those of us who were there.

The city of the festival, Warsaw, was beautifully decorated for the event. The amount of reconstruction done in ten years of People's rule is remarkable, taking into consideration that after the war the city was so destroyed that there was no water, electricity, transportation or inhabitants. The city was literally laid waste by the Nazis.

Out of these ruins emerged a city which, when completed, should be definitely one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Standing majestically in the centre of Warsaw is the great Palace of Culture. This building is a gift from the people of the Soviet Union to the people of Poland.

Throughout the Festival we just had a wonderful time, to put it simply. All over the city, in parks, on the streets, in homes, there was festivity. Never before had we experienced such hospitality as that shown by our hosts. Language was no difficulty. Where that was missing, embraces, kisses, flowers and gifts took place.

Over 30,000 young people from over 40 different countries participated with one expressed desire—Peace and Friendship.

Throughout the Festival there were meetings, where young people from the different countries got together and discussed their common problems, there were tours of the country, visits to factories and other places of interest.

I'll never forget the look of our interpreter with the tears streaming down his face, when the time came for us to bid one another goodbye.

TREVOR CARTER

WHO DOES THE GOVERNING?

BELIZE, B.H.

A FEW more responsibilities are being passed on to the elected members of the British Honduras Executive Council.

The acting Governor announced that Mr. Leigh Richardson, leader of the P.U.P., and Member for Natural Resources, will take over development concessions from the Financial Secretary.

Mr. Philip Goldson, Member for Social Services, will have the additional responsibility for industrial relations, labour, and local government. Essential control is still, however, in the hands of British Government representatives.

A new Governor has been appointed for British Honduras, to take the place of Sir Patrick Renison, who goes to take up Savage's job in Guiana. The new Governor, Mr. Hardwick Thornley, was Chief Secretary of Uganda.

Palace of Science and Culture

This magnificent building is a gift from the Soviet Union to Polish people. All the materials were sent from the U.S.S.R. and Soviet workers constructed it.

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DE LA JEUNESSE ET DES ETU
VARSOVIE
1955

Symbol of the Warsaw Festival—friendship of youth of all nationalities, colours and creeds.

ANOTHER LEMON FOR THE BOYS

U.S.A./WEST INDIAN CITRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

Washington : During August, two soap-box politicians flew into town, their eyes still filled with stardust, in an attempt to supposedly outwit the United States' most scheming agriculturalists.

Norman Manley, Chief Minister of Jamaica, with Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce (Trinidad), had spent a lot of taxpayers' money flying all over the world and lavishly entertaining. An excuse for a trip to Washington was lacking, until the Citrus negotiation idea sprung up, and now the boys can stick another label on the travelling bags in sheer bravdo.

The argument for this visit is based on the freedom that the United States citrus producers now enjoy in the United Kingdom market, in accordance with both the Economic Co-operation Agreement (1948), and the subsequent Mutual Security Act (1951). As far as Britain is concerned it was the price of U.S.A. money-lending to bolster up their war-ravaged economy against British workers storming for socialism.

Following that, in 1954, the British Government set up a 5-Man Commission to report on the West Indies Citrus Industry. They pointedly warned:

"In the event of American citrus fruit and the fruit products becoming freely available in the U.K. market, West Indian produce seems likely to be driven out of that market". (C.N. May '54.) —but Norman Manley and Albert Gomes think nothing of ignoring the basic fundamentals and continue to callously waste money on expensive trips.

The head of the Florida (U.S.A.) canners' mission, after visiting Jamaica and confirming that there was no real risk of competition in his market from that quarter, as **long as Britain refused to provide protective tariffs and guaranteed quotas,** very benignly stated.

"The long range problem of maintaining the position of the West Indian citrus industry in the British market, in competition with the Florida citrus industry, was discussed fully, and we have a much better understanding of it than we had before we came to Jamaica.

"We recognise that West Indian grapefruit producers are dependent upon the United Kingdom market, and appreciate their deep concern that they might lose their position in that market if they must sell there in competition with canned grapefruit products from Florida".

Wasteful Venture

Is it conceivable that these two could naively repeat a venture that already proved wasteful, when Bustamente and Gomes visited London on this topic in 1954?

Giving them the benefit of the doubt, one can only hope that the electorate will soon relieve them of their Parliamentary responsibilities to permit time to study elementary political economy.

Guiana Militancy

from page 1

T.U.C., and set up a new body. Its rules embodied an obnoxious clause which debarred membership to any union which was associated, or affiliated with the W.F.T.U., or the Caribbean Labour Congress. An appeal by thirteen other trade unions in early 1954 failed to make the reactionary T.U.C. leaders delete this clause. Realising, however, their weak position, and the disunity in the ranks of Labour, a move has recently been made to bring into the T.U.C. all the trade union organisations.

While this attempt at achieving unity is being made, other events point to the continuance of reactionary leadership and direction. The T.U.C. has already applied to the I.C.F.T.U. for affiliation. To be convened here with the blessings of the dictatorial Colonial Office regime is a Conference of Sugar and Plantation workers under the auspices of O.R.I.T., the regional body of the I.C.F.T.U.

T.U.C. HANDOUT

The host organisation is the Man-Power Citizens Association, a long established Government protected company union of sugar workers. This body has recently been granted £5,000 by the British T.U.C. to carry out its organisational work, following, the advice of Messrs. George Woodcock and Andrew Dagleash of the latter organisation. Mr. Dagleash is here as a special advisor.

The obvious purport of all these activities is the political subversion of the sugar workers. These workers are not only the backbone of the economy of the country. They are also the strongest supporters of the P.P.P. At the 1953 elections, the P.P.P. won, with the help of its closely associated Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, all the "sugar constituencies". The ineptitude and bankruptcy of the I.C.F.T.U. and British T.U.C. backed Manpower Citizens' Association was clearly revealed by the defeat at the General Elections of its then General Secretary (with loss of deposit in a sugar constituency) and the National Democratic Party which it supported.

RESTRICTIONS

While it is clear that the M.P.C.A. has no support among the sugar workers, the Sugar Plantation Owners' continue to recognise it. The Union has made no effort to see that the Plantation Owners' implement recommendations such as a contributory pension scheme made since 1949 by the Venn Commission of Enquiry with the Sugar Industry.

Under the present state of emergency, when public assemblies are banned, special permission has to be sought for the holding of trade union meetings. Permission for the holding of a public open-air meeting is being denied to some trade unions, whilst to others more subservient to the bosses and administrators, it is readily granted.

Not too long ago, as President of the Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union. I received a letter from the Police stating that at one of our meetings, I entered into a political discourse, and that should such discussions continue, permission may not be granted in future!

PHONEY DEVELOPMENT

Despite a great deal of propaganda about the so-called Development Programme. the Interim Government has done little to change the base of British Guiana's colonial economy.

The economy continues to rest on the export of two crops; sugar and rice, and the extraction and export of timber and minerals (gold, bauxite and diamond).

While diversification of agriculture has been emphasised, particularly by the West India Royal Commission since 1940, no more than "more talks", "more experts", and "more blue-prints" have materialised.

AMERICAN CAPITALISTS

American and Canadian capitalists are primarily interested in the extraction of minerals. Nearly three million tons of bauxite were exported in 1954. The British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. has recently acquired a $2½ million giant dredge with a bucket capacity of 10 cubic feet for alluvial gold mining.

In the Northwest district, extensive plans are now being implemented for the large-scale extraction of manganese. On August 7th, 1955, an official announcement disclosed that the radio-active mineral, monazite, has been discovered in the Rupununi District.

JOINT ROBBERY

Every emphasis is being placed on this aspect of "development". Large C.D. & W. (Colonial Development and Welfare) grants have been made by the British Government for the strengthening of the local Geological Survey Department.

Early this year, this Department was further strengthened by the secondment of an American geologist by the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration (F.O.A.). This signifies the degree of unity of British and American capital in their quest for exploiting the mineral resources of this country.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Government's refusal to change the Colonial economic base in favour of a balanced agricultural and industrial economy is leading to further repercussions for the working class. Unemployment is on the increase. This is due both to a rising population and scientific and technological improvements.

Some idea of the desperate unemployment situation can be gained from recent press announcements: 200 applied for 6 positions as District Government Information Officers, 600 women apply for 40 jobs as Policewomen etc., etc.

NOT INTIMIDATED

The past twenty-two months have taught the inhabitants of this British Colony that they cannot look to a Colonial Office dictatorship for the defence of their living standards. They now see very clearly that the P.P.P. Government was deposed for the benefit of imperialism, for the "Bookers' Monopoly" and its local satellites.

The British Government's declaration that there will be a "period of marking time", with no representative government, but only a puppet nominated legislature "so long as the present leadership and policies of the P.P.P. continue" has not intimidated the people.

Fully realising that this is the only party to defend their interests, they are prepared to vote it into power at any time. It is this knowledge which forces the British Government to rule by emergency decrees and puppets.

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Jamaicans halt fares increase

A JOINT campaign, including public meetings and demonstrations by the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and the People's Freedom Movement have forced the Government and the British Bus Company (Close Bros.) to abandon—at least temporarily—its proposals to increase Bus Fares by 50 to 100 per cent.

A law has since been introduced in the Local House of Representatives to amend the franchise of certain Companies to avoid putting into effect Close Bros'. demand for increased fares. The protest continues.

Biter bit

STRONG protest by the J.F.T.U., in connection with the conduct of Harry Dennis, Justice of the Peace and owner of a Cane Farm in Hanover, where the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union had called a strike demanding increased wages and better working conditions, has resulted in the Attorney General serving summons on Dennis and others for a breach of the Public Order Law. This followed their gang attack on S.A.W.U.'s picket line last March. Dennis and his gang is to appear in the Local Court shortly for trial. The fact that Dennis is himself a Law Magistrate in the same Court, makes the victory even more significant.

Passport Refused

THE application of Don Horn, organising Secretary of the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union in St. Elizabeth, for a passport to attend the Festival of World Youth in Warsaw, Poland, was refused by the Local Immigration Authorities.

A letter from the Chief Immigration Officer, conveying the decision, informed Mr. Horn that his application for a British passport had been refused on security grounds.

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George Foulser, an English worker, asks himself

Would I like my sister to marry a black man?

THE first time I met Negro workers was in 1937. I was deck boy on a Cardiff tramp and the firemen were black men. I'd had it drummed into me at school that the English ran the British Empire because of their superior qualities over other white people, but more especially over all coloured people who had not the intelligence to run their own affairs.

I was very surprised indeed, then, to find the black firemen behaving just like English firemen. I thought all black men had dirty habits. In fact these men were far cleaner in their habits than I was at that time.

One thing I remember, I heard a Cardiff-born Negro fireman running down some West Indian seamen, who had recently arrived in the U.K. He said, "They come over here to take the jobs away from us Welshmen". I thought that ridiculous. How could a black man be a Welshman? During my life at sea, I found that a black man could not only be a Welshman; if he was born in London, he could be as good a cockney as myself, with the cockney sense of humour. I never read this sort of thing in the school books. Things like this were not mentioned at all.

ILL FEELING

But at that time, just before the war, shipowners were replacing white firemen by, mainly, West African firemen as they gave the shipowners less trouble. This caused a lot of ill-feeling. Personally, I didn't think it right to replace Englishmen by West Africans, who had no right on British ships, and should be sent home.

Just a little political knowledge would have told me that the West Africans had as much right aboard the ships as I had, and that their apparent docility was due to two things: they were on the average as politically backward as I was, and the conditions on British ships were Paradise after the terrible economic conditions for West Africans at home.

When the war broke out, lots of things changed. I got involved in the class struggle. I didn't know it was the class struggle. All I knew was I got fourteen days' jail on my twentieth birthday for refusing to work more than a fifty-six hour week at sea in war-time, unless in an emergency. That was October 1939, and a couple of years later the hours were brought down to fifty-six, after a few more had gone to jail.

DEEP ROOTED

After the Nazis attacked the Soviets, I became more Left-wing politically. Studying, I found that in a Socialist country there is no racial discrimination. Sometimes, I saw sense in that, sometimes not. The old prejudices had been deeply rooted, planted at a man's most impressionable age, and it was a hard job getting rid of them.

I think that what finally finished my racial antagonism was the time I spent in New York—about nine months after the war's end. I worked at first in the shipping department of a shoe factory—two black men and myself. I think that was when I learnt to let this become a part of my make up: Judge a man by what he is as a man and by nothing else. If he is a good guy, O.K. If he's a bad bastard, the hell with him, and it doesn't matter if he's white, black, red, green, or sky-blue-pink.

I found that in chatting with these two blokes, accepting them as people made sense, and made for far more honest talking than having the sub-conscious reservation: "He may be as intelligent and as educated as I am, but we are two different kinds of people, white and black".

I had, previously, shied off subjects which I thought might offend black men's racial solidarity. It was much easier now. Talking to one another, as people and about people as people, I felt a damn sight more honest.

And later on I learnt another lesson. Like most seamen in war-time, I was a heavy boozer. When I was introduced to a certain chap (I think he was a professional worker of some sort), who impressed me by his very clear way of reasoning and his self-control, I felt for the first time in my life that here was a black man superior to me as a human being.

The problem I solved last was that of racial intermarriage. I dodged it for a long time, because I knew I'd have to give myself an honest answer, and it [illegible] be a bad one. And it never occurred to me t[illegible] all my relations with women, wherever I'd sail[illegible] never applied any colour bar to myself.

Finally, I asked myself: "Would you like your sister to marry a black man?" And the answer was "No, I wouldn't". I know there are quite a few white people in London who say, airily: "What a silly question. Of course I would, there's no difference. We are all human beings".

If these people honestly thought that question over, and found it easy, I didn't. Analysing my feelings further, though, I found my "No, I wouldn'[illegible]s not racial prejudice so much as insularity, [illegible]re [illegible] snobbishness. Born in a very clannish [illegible] London (Bermondsey) of English and Irish [illegible] found I would prefer this hypothetical sister to [illegible]ry a Bermondsey waterside worker, a stevedore or lighterman.

UNITY WILL WIN

I wasn't so keen on her marrying any of the other English people, and then, as I ran through the various European races, I was rather surprised to find I'd prefer her marrying a black man to a German, Pole, Greek, or Italian.

After this, I rapidly narrowed my feelings down until I came to this: I would prefer this sister of mine to marry somebody I know—if I had been to school with him, so much the better, but as long as he's a good husband, I'm not really all that much bothered what he is as regards his race.

I wrote this article because of a big job I once worked on, an important job for the boss class. The craftsmen were mostly English, and the labourers mostly Irish. And certain men were deliberately planted on that job to stir up racial animosity, it was that important that the workers shouldn't ha[illegible]

The scheme didn't succeed. That job wa[illegible] [illegible]ar mark in that trade for solidarity. If you an[illegible] working together on a job and we start quarrelling because of our colour, or our religion, or the shape of our nose, we can give up all hope of forcing the boss to give us more pay and better working [illegible]ditions. Solidarity can win, but disunity must [illegible]

That is the thing we must remember. As w[illegible] it doesn't matter who we are, or where we come [illegible] we have a common enemy, the boss class, and the only way we can beat our enemy is to stick together.

United we stand, divided we fall.

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CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

November-December 1955

BARBADIANS AS HOTEL WORKERS

THE Barbados Government has come to an agreement with the British Hotels and Restaurants Association for recruiting Barbadians as maids and kitchen porters in British hotels. Already several have left under this scheme.

This way out of the unemployment situation in Barbados is favoured by Mr. Grantley Adams, Premier. Some months ago it will be recalled Mr. Manley, Chief Minister of Jamaica, was reported to have suggested that Jamaican women should come to Britain to take up domestic postions.

Another line of action is family restriction, and a Family Advice Centre now operates in Barbados.

It can be seen from these efforts that the conception of Mr. Grantley Adams' Government for solving the problems of Barbados is extremely limited.

Having accepted the colonial framework on which the Barbados economy is based, how difficult it is to manoeuvre within it to provide better conditions for the people! One could go on for years, even with the best of intentions, without getting any nearer the solution. Jagan and the P.P.P. in Guiana had a good programme but because big business did not like it, the country is now ruled as an absolute dictatorship.

Return Foreign Troops from the Colonies

THE Movement for Colonial Freedom has declared by a majority for the IMMEDIATE withdrawal of all foreign troops from colonial territories.

Every coloured colonial present supported the IMMEDIATE withdrawal, including Joseph Murumbi (Kenya)—to the surprise of the platform—Roy MacFarlane (Jamaica) of the Labour League of Youth, Frank Bailey (Guiana) of the Fire Brigades Union, and Billy Strachan of the C.L.C. along with the Malayan student delegation.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Fenner Brockway, Member of Parliament, (Eton & Slough), the Movement was holding its First Annual Conference on Sunday 30th, October in London.

Born in April 1954, the organisation includes wide sections of the people that support colonial independence and self-determination. Trade unions, Constituency Labour Parties, Labour Members of Parliament, miscellaneous organisations and individuals of varying degrees of 'left' ideas, all go to make up this body.

The decision on the vote for the "immediate withdrawal of all troops", however, exposed the fact that some professed allies of colonial independence were not prepared to match action to their slogans. To the surprise of Conference, after the Resolution was successfully carried, Mr. Brockway, M.P. stated that he refused to be bound by this decision (groans). This of course is hardly honest or constitutional as long as he remains President!

Message to Trinidad

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) sent a message of greetings to the Second Annual Congress of the WEST INDIAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY, which was being held in Port-of-Spain. "Your party has been constantly under attack since its inception . . ." was the key sentence in the message, and clearly showed which was really the fighting party in Trinidad. The Conference took place on November 6th and 13th.

The Seasons Greetings

Chubby little Philip Murray's radiant smile brings cheery thoughts, catching the gleam of joy and goodwill at this time of year. To all our readers —Best wishes for an enjoyable Christmas.

Police Search Jamaican Woman

Kingston, Jamaica.

MRS. ROSE WILLIAMS, delegate to the International Congress of Mothers in Switzerland, after a successful tour of the German Democratic Republic, People's Poland and the Soviet Union, returned here recently

At the Airport Mrs. Williams was subjected to what observers described as the most disgraceful search by local "security" police. The security officers, apparently irate at the fact that Mrs. Williams had seen with her own eyes what the local press had been hiding, not only ransacked personal articles, but even searched her doll—a gift from the people of the Soviet Union.

In an interview Mrs. Williams old correspondents how she enjoyed her tour of the Socialist countries. She told of the important resolutions of the historic Women's Congress. Everywhere, she said, she was shown the utmost courtesy, and the reception was inspiring. Nowhere was she made to feel that as a black woman she was "unwanted" or despised. Continueing Mrs. Williams declared: "In the Polish People's Republic I have seen with my own eyes how happy the entire population is in the building of their new life, and the popularity the Government enjoys".

Friendliness

Speaking of the Soviet Union Mrs. Williams said she visited Moscow, Moldavia, Leningrad and other important cities. In these cities she said every worker was expressing the desire to live in peace with the people of the world. She was very much impressed with the friendliness of the Soviet peoples, and the abundance of consumers goods available at reasonable prices. The vast building programme taking place in the Soviet Union, she said, was evidence of the peoples hope that they will be able to continue building their country in peace.

Asked what was her impression of the Women's Congress, Mrs. Williams told her inquirers how the international gathering of Mothers had brought together for the first time the representatives of millions of Mothers throughout the world in defence of their children, their homes and the noble cause of peace.

"The conference was truly representative of all

continued on back page

Don't Pity People of St. Vincent, FIGHT FOR THEM

by Our Special Correspondent

GIVING evidence before the Commission of Enquiry, set up by the Governor, Mr. Huggins, the Commissioner for Labour, stated that a man's wages in ST. VINCENT today was 98 cents per day, and that for women 75 cents. (1 cent=½ penny); he continued, "I cannot give a correct estimate of the number of persons unemployed in he sugar and arrowroot estate areas".

These disgraceful facts, amongst others, were forced out of this Government official's mouth, as he appeared in kingstown, before the COMMISSION, instituted to enquire into the wages earnings and conditions of employment in agriculture and the processing of agricultural products. The Commission was set up through the new ADMINISTRATOR, who represents the Governor. Mr. Alexander Falcholer Giles M.B.E., has succeeded the infamous COUTTS who was more gubernatorial than any Caesar.

The Commission carefully chosen consists of:

(a) Sir Clement Malone, Kt.O.B.E.
(b) W. S. Hagley, Esq.
(c) G. S. DaBreo, Esq.

They intend to hear evidence in Kingstown, Georgeown, Mesopotamia, Barrouallie and Biabou.

Estate owners are naturally present to lie to defend themselves against exposure of the feudal system of land tenure and labour conditions that exist in ST. VINCENT.

HOW MANY BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL READ THIS REPORT? HOW MANY WILL RAISE QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS? This is their responsibility as long as they claim the right to rule and legislate for the colonial people.

HON. E. T. JOSHUA, M.L.C., President of the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union put forward the clearest immediate solutions to the

continued on page 5

OIL SWINDLE

NETT PROFIT of the group for the year ended 30th June, 1955, after providing for all charges, including depreciation and taxation, was £2,312,682 as against a mere £1,851,629 a year ago. So said Mr. Simon J. Voss in his report as Chairman to TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS LIMITED.

Yes, crude oil production has gone UP! —more PROVEN reserves have been recorded—and taxation has gone DOWN!

For how long will Trinidad oil continue to drain into the lap of the English capitalist?

★ EDITORIAL ★

Two Kinds of Disaster

THE severe hurricane that swept the West Indies at Barbados, Grenada, and British Honduras, was a natural disaster of a type occurring periodically in this part of the world.

The people who lost their lives, the destruction of houses, sugar, cocoa and banana crops,—these all bear silent testimony of a major tragedy that only those who suffered can fully appreciate.

We express our deepest sympathy to all those who suffered, though we know their pain and misery cannot be easily erased.

Aid has gone to the victims from several parts of the world, including the assistance the London Branch of the Caribbean Labour Congress was able to collect through its appeal.

The British Government granted £50,000 each to the territories, while Sir Hubert Rance, former Governor of Trinidad, has been heading an appeal for a relief fund which recently went just over the £50,000 mark.

Interviewed by a London newspaper, he complained that he was disappointed with the results, saying that had it been for some other part of the world outside the Commonwealth the British people would have forked up much more already.

In this hurricane, as in others before, the people who were hit hardest were the poorest. This was confirmed by our Barbados correspondent.

The shacks and flimsey houses are the ones that are blown down quickest. In Jamaica the people afterwards 'housed' in tents have not yet recovered from that hurricane of 1951.

And already gloomy predicions are being made by influential authorities and publications that it will be a very long time before Barbados and Grenada can "resume the march to progress" from where they left off.

This can be prevented

Although natural disasters like hurricanes cannot be prevented, the damage they cause merely aggrevate the permanent distress of the majority of people in the West Indies.

Indeed, the West Indies may be regarded as being in a state of permanent disaster.

To know that over one-third of the working population is always unemployed and many of those at work are on starvation wages, to learn of the patch-work slums, of the families who sleep on the pavements of Kingston—the effect of all this is as if a hurricane was striking every single day of the year.

The big difference is that this type of "hurricane" is not caused by nature.

IT IS MAN MADE.

It is the result of a system known as colonialism or imperialism, and which is the counterpart of capitalism.

We West Indians are the colonials and are being exploited, robbed of our wealth and heritage, and thus prevented from fully developing ourselves, for the benefit and profit of a very small number of financial sharks who control the big companies and plantations on our land, and who use the British Government and Army as their big stick to keep us where they want us.

Anyhow you look at it, that is certainly a disaster for us. But this type of "hurricane" we can deal with. We've got the remedy in our own hands.

All that's left is for us to decide to use our UNITED STRENGTH and sweep this lot of parasites and foreign imposed governments off our backs!

Third Anniversary

WITH this issue **Caribbean News** celebrates its third anniversary, and sends greetings to all its staunch supporters.

We wish to extend a special greeting and welcome to new readers and to ask for their continued support in the future.

Caribbean News is not just another newspaper. For West Indians and indeed all those interested in the West Indies, it is THE paper.

It is our policy not to be the spokesman for the bosses, but to be outspoken and unafraid in championing the right of our people, for better conditions, for full rights, for national independence.

We appeal to you to read **Caribbean News,** show it to your friends, and to join the organisation which makes its publication possible—the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch).

WORLD YOUTH SENDS AID TO BARBADOS

IN response to an urgent appeal for help for "Those poor exploited workers who now will have to build afresh" from the recent hurricane disaster of October, the WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH immediately donated the sum of Two Hundred American dollars.

The Appeal of the CARIBBEAN PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, of BARBADOS, was also well received by British workers. The most outstanding reply was another immediate gift of £50 from the National Executive Committee of the AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION.

Substantial presents of second-hand clothing and some tinned foods were received from the Communist Party of Hampstead, London. Others arrived at the offices of the C.L.C. (London Branch) who were responsible for circulating the appeal in Britain and throughout Europe. All the packages have been shipped off to Bridgetown, Barbados, and are expected to arrive in time for Christmas.

The Telegram from World Federation of Democratic Youth stated:

PLEASE CONVEY TO PEOPLE BARBADOS OUR SYMPATHY THEIR DISTRESS RESULT HURRICANE STOP DECIDED SEND VIA YOU TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS RELIEF STOP LETTER FOLLOWS=WFDY

Premier replies

In reply to a message of sympathy sent to Barbados, the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) received the following acknowledgment:

"The Premier has asked me to acknowledge with grateful thanks the receipt of your telegram of sympathy to the people of Barbados. He regrets that, as he is ill in bed, he is unable himself to write you at this time.

(Signed) W. Harris (Mrs.)
Secretary to the Premier.

Trinidad New Party Postponed

DR. ERIC WILLIAMS passed through London last month on his way to Geneva to attend a special parley with the INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS.

He had left Trinidad, immediately after handing in a petition to the Governor demanding a revised Constitution of two Houses for Trinidad and Tobago. The proposal was, that one House, the Lower, should consist of 18 seats wholly elected; the Upper House should consist of 16 seats, with six representatives of 'special' interest, 5 of religous denominations, the 3 ex-officio officials of the British Colonial Office and 2 nominees of the Governor or dictator. Here is a clear indication of another attempt to plan collaboration with our greatest enemies, the foreign rulers. The I.C.F.T.U. seems to be behind this like all other plans it has set afoot, to mislead the real fighters.

DR. WILLIAMS first appeared as a ray of hope to Trinidad when he broke with the CARIBBEAN COMMISSION. Since then he has drifted right back into the hands of foreign rulers, who re-appear as the I.C.F.T.U.

Dr. Williams had the support of 27,811 votes, but if this is all that he promises, then he will go the way of GOMES and others.

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Vivacious dancing stirs them

VIVACIOUS dancing by the West Indian Cultural group enlivened the atmosphere when West Indians and English people got together at a social held by the St. Pancras Borough Council.

Intended to bring white and coloured together in friendly contact, the Council set up a Welfare sub-committee, and this social last month was the first to help bridge the gap.

Starting off slowly at first as most socials go, from the time the West Indian Dance group started entertaining with their songs and dances, everyone became electrified and joined in the calypso spirit.

The Mayor was particularly pleased with the performance, which was held at the Church Hall.

Attended by about 60 people, this social should be the beginning in something much bigger, as the Council is planning to organise a big event at the St. Pancras Town Hall.

AND HERE'S PROOF—

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SAINT PANCRAS

Town Clerk's Department,
St. Pancras Town Hall,
Euston Road, N.W.1.

Dear Mr. Strachan,

Alderman Aspa, the Chairman of the Colonial Welfare Advisory Committee, has asked me to thank you for arranging for the dancing display which was enjoyed so much by all of us at last evening's social.

The standard of the display was excellent, those concerned the sincere appreciation of the and I should be glad if you would convey to all Committee for so generously giving their time and making the evening a success.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) R. C. E. Austin,
Town Clerk.

Nurse Clemetson to stand trial

RETURNING TO JAMAICA

London; 22/11/55:

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court refused to direct the release of student nurse Evet Joyce Clemetson from Holloway Prison where she is awaiting her return trip to JAMAICA, to face charges of embezzlement as a Post Office clerk in the Bath district.

Mr. Justice Hallett said the sum (£6) involved was small. He viewed, however, the alleged offence with gravity, as here was a public official who bore great responsibility, especially when dealing with illiterate people. The depositor concerned in the case, is reported as being illiterate.

That court seemed to agree that even a return to Jamaica would be harsh and oppressive.

To think, that this was the same impression at the time of Captain Blood!

Privy Council rejects Madame Leon's petition

THE Chairman of the Jamaica Labour Party and former Minister of Health, Mrs. Rose Leon, was refused permission by the Judicial Committee of he PRIVY COUNCIL to appeal against her conviction for making a false statement about a candidate, during the General Election in JAMAICA last January.

The decision was made known on October 17th, in London.

Mr. Cyril Salmon, Q.C., who represented Mrs. Leon, said that she had been returned to the House of Representatives, but had been disfranchised, because of her conviction, and therefore unable to take her Seat.

Madame LEON, as she is commonly known in the island, has a sharp tongue and pulls every trick out of the bag to combat her opponents.

BLACK AND WHITE
WORKERS IN WILLESDEN

MR. Ernest Eytle, a BBC official from the West Indies department, won unanimous approval from a crowd of trade unionists, when he addressed the WILLESDEN TRADES COUNCIL on October 24th.

Sharing the platform with the C.L.C. spokesman, who dealt with the political and economic factors affecting West Indians, Mr. Eytle confined his remarks to lighter social aspects, with a lot of stage effects, in true BBC fashion.

The trade unionists first gasped with disgust when Mr. Eytle, replying to questions, stated that all major authority rested in the hands of the British Colonial Office. He saw only NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE as the solution; this drew cheers of warm approval.

Tall Order

The meeting was finally closed by Brother Davies of the TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS UNION, a former coal-miner, after one trade unionist had declared that he, with fellow British workers, were fighting for a real socialist Government, which would play fair, not only with British workers, but with the colonial people—a tall order!

A resolution directing the Trades Council to discuss immediately plans for setting up some friendship group or other to include both coloured and British workers, was unanimously carried. It's up to the West Indians here now, to make this a lasting success.

WHAT IS THE BABY'S NATIONALITY?

THE K.L.M. Airlines reported recently that one of their passengers gave birth to a baby over Poughkeepsie, NEW YORK.

A DUTCH aircraft, over UNITED STATES territory, with a JAMAICAN mother?

Reports say, that the mother's name is Mrs. Gloria Foster. When the airliner alighted at Montreal, CANADA en route, both mother and child were admitted to hospital. They are reported to be quite well.

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The Trial of Jomo Kenyatta

by Montagu Slater, Secker & Warburg, 18/-

IT is really an understatement to describe this book as a summary of the case, for so well has the author compiled the main factors and outstanding incidents in the case, that the reader is projected, so to speak, not only into the school room of far off Kepenguria, where this gross injustice took place, but even amidst the Kikuyu, their ancient customs and superstitions so dear to them and yet so terribly misunderstood by others.

Among the prosecution's astonishing arguments against Kenyatta was that at a meeting where he denounced Mau-Mau, he in fact did not mean what he said.

Startling incidents included leading defence counsel D. N. Pritt being charged with contempt of court. (Subsequently acquitted by the Supreme Court in Nairobi), and the interpreter walking out of the courtroom—never to return when confronted with inaccuracies in his interpretation.

★

"I cannot follow the African's mind", said the Magistrate during the trial. Yet he seemed to accept every ounce of evidence from the prosecution witnesses and rejected out of hand those of the defence.

Again to quote this gentleman: "Throughout the trial the allegation was that the Europeans have robbed the Kikuyu of their land. There is no proof before me that any land has been stolen from the Kikuyu". Maybe not, but how did the dominant European settlers acquire all the land they now hold—and the best at that?

In the urge to impose civilisation on these leaders of the Kenyan people the maximum sentences of seven years were imposed on all but one of the accused who was acquitted in the Court of Appeal.

Today, while these men languish in prison, atrocities continue to pile up against the African people. Can one wonder why today the so-called backward peoples are in revolt against the continuation of this subjection by men whose only motive is robbery. The score today is in the region or 12,000 killed and half as many taken prisoner, as well as some 150,000 put in concentration camps.

After reading this book no one can be in any doubt about the reason for this wholesale malicious slaughter. But then you cannot very well rob a people of their heritage. In the final analysis the people of Kenya shall be the victors.

A.B.

WEST INDIAN NEIGHBOUR

A HANDY little booklet has been published by the British Council of Churches, primarily to familiarise church workers and leaders in Britain with some of the elementary facts of West Indian immigration.

Entitled YOUR NEIGHBOUR FROM THE WEST INDIES, it is priced at one shilling and is obtainable at 10 Eaton Gate, S.W.1.

In a very simple and personal way it introduces the average English person to the West Indian's background, explaining some of the differences and similarities of the two peoples.

Although agreeing that there are certain differences in culture, social customs, etc., it comes down against any theory of white racial superiority.

Prepared for the needs of the conscious Christian, the booklet gives tips on the tasks of the Christain Church towards influencing West Indians.

On the question of language, the hint is given: "English is their native tongue. Do not, therefore, comment with surprise on their excellent English accent. This will betray our deplorable ignorance of our colonial history and will quite easily cause offence".

If this booklet is widely distributed it can do much good to foster better relations.

R.C.

SHOW TALK

Josh is a MUST

APPEARING at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, November 4th, was folklorist Josh White. On the same bill were the Trinidad Southern All-Stars Percussion Orchestra.

The Seven Boys from Trinidad opened the programme and played during the interval tunes ranging from Strauss to Baccanal. The numbers were specially arranged for the peculiar "strumchorded" instruments.

Encores were appreciated with more calypsos—in which the boys struck **true** form. A special treat was the Bainon "Anna," which gace them first prize in the Percussion Orchestras Competition in Trinidad last year.

'One Meat Ball'

Josh was superb as usual. From his 500-song repertoire, he sang work-songs, blues, ballads, spirituals—all with the same consummate skill, each with its message—from the people, for the people. "House of the Rising Sun"—the hotel in the red-light district which he never wants his sister to know. "One Meat Ball"—the experiences of the poor, exploited worker who only had **fifteen cents** for lunch and couldn't find a restaurant to take his humble order.

Josh—who plays around the country for the next three months—is a MUST. You can see and hear him at the Royal Albert Hall on December 14th, when he appears in a concert in aid of the WEST INDIAN HURRICANE VICTIMS. Make it a date, won't you?

from F. O'Jon

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Is this a WORLD COUNCIL?

SYDNEY KING

MONSIEUR Nguyen Manh-Ha, former President of Catholic Action of South Viet-Nam, was by far the most outstanding amongst a motley collection of delegates that visited Margate, KENT, over the week-end, November, 5th-7th, 1955.

M. Manh-Ha spoke with intense feeling of the failure of the UNITED NATIONS to assure success to the famous Geneva agreements of 1954, which brought an end to bloodshed in war-torn INDO-CHINA.

COLONIAL LIBERATOR

Standing nearly six feet, and of a sturdy athletic build, the Mongolian featured delegate, who had formerly been a Minister in the first Ho-Chi-Minh Government, spoke with some suave and exhausting persuasion. He declared that although some people might not entirely approve of the form of Government in North VIET-NAM, he could assure us that they enjoyed the highest standards of democracy and were free to elect their own governments. What a pity no representative of theirs was present to give this inaugural conference a great lead on to colonial liberation?

The week-end conference was called by Mr. Fenner Brockway, M.P., in his several roles as leader of the Congress of People against Imperialism, the Movement for Colonial Freedom and elements of the defunct questionable Socialist international.

Delegates had been invited carefully from all points of the compass, making certain that no Communist Parties were represented, although they were known to be the main leaders of colonial liberation, especially in CYPRUS and MALAYA. Amongst those that responded, which can be considered as representing large masses, were the Convention Peoples' Party (GOLD COAST)—although no representative arrived or written message was received—and the People's Progressive Party (GUIANA), represented by Mr. Ranji Chandisingh.

CHARM & CHATTER

Other representatives came from Madagascar, Tunisia, India, Israel, and some Arab countries; most naively honest, with positive Eastern charm, was the young female representative of a self-confessedly small party from CEYLON, which she told us was characterised as Trotskyist.

FREE COLONIES

The occasion should not have been missed by any serious patriotic colonial, nor for that matter, by any English or other metropolitan socialist, who understood the importance of the liberation of the colonies to permit their real economic development. This, of course, would be of lasting benefit to the socialists and communists of the imperial countries, firstly, as to the large scale saving on war expenditure and of course the increased ability that colonials would enjoy in purchasing power.

To pick out some of the best contributions from a very poorly organised affair, one must uncompromisingly pin-point RANJI CHANDISINGH, who was the personal representative of Dr. CHEDDI JAGAN, of the People's Progressive Party (Guiana). He shone late in the early evening, with all the brilliance of a tropical sunset, to light the depleted Conference Hall with his powerful exposition. This precipitated an open invitation by a Danish socialist and broadcaster to Mr. Chandisingh to tour DENMARK, all expenses covered.

Remarkably, his closest rival for top honours, was an Indian, recently returned from participation in the struggles for the liberation of GOA, from Portuguese imperial chains. He too, roused conference with his continuous acclamation of India's peaceful Gandhi-like traditions. To be mentioned also, was Mr. A. Tuakli, of the WEST AFRICAN STUDENTS' UNION, who although he had covered his territories admirably and concisely, was followed by three young men much too full of West African charm and chatter. The ARAB/ISRAEL clash seemed somewhat stage managed, and was hardly an asset to socialist thinking.

At the final sessions, the Conference promoters, full of heady words, proclaimed the setting up of a World Council for Colonial Liberation, with an allied twin, known as the International Council for Economic and Social Co-operation.

Heedless of the restraint urged by some of the best spokesmen at the conference, who WARNED THAT INSUFFICIENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADMITTED COLONIAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT were present, to take such decisions, a strange vote was taken.

WRONG TURNING

The result showed some twenty or more nominal organisations supporting the venture (Mr. Brockway voted on behalf of three, his colleague Jean Russe voted on behalf of four!), while on the other hand, two of the three MALAYAN delegations abstained from support, as did the P.P.P. (GUIANA), the W.A.S.U., the Ceylon and Jewish representatives.

A great sorrow that this first important step on the path to colonial liberation should have taken a wrong turning, so soon.

C.N. Reporter

B. H. Minister Exposes Phoney Constitutions

MR. Leigh Richardson, leader of the P.U.P. of British Honduras, and a Minister in the Government, made the following interesting observation in an editorial in the "Billboard" of 31st October :

". . . so called advanced constitutions are still colonial constitutions and that under them elected representatives of the people must work side by side with elements which comprise the former colonial régimes.

"However good and wise the social and economic progress of the elected leaders, it can only be carried out to the extent that the colonial official side is willing to co-operate.

"For instance, no laws can be passed if an Attorney-General neglects or delays on various pretexts, to draft them, and if a Financial Secretary is not sympathetic to the social and economic policy of elected members, he can make the carrying out of any such project very difficult and almost impossible.

"Colonial officials have always been prepared to give lip support to housing programmes, just labour laws, social security schemes and assistance to farmers. Getting their support in actual practice is a horse of another colour.

"Elected leaders often find their programmes of reform obstructed by some colonial official who in a few months' time would be gone, completely forgetting the people and the territory which suffer through his obstruction.

GUIANA

People's victory in local election

(Reprint from THUNDER, Nov. 19th, 1955).

THE Buxton elections are over. They ended in a resounding victory for the people's candidates, headed by Comrade King over the candidates assisted by the Burnhamites and George Younge.

The people's bloc put up five candidates and gained 818 votes. The Burnham group put six candidates and polled 518 votes—a defeat of 308.

King, who heads the people's bloc, polled 215 votes out of 288 cast in Buxton division, 24 of which were rejected votes.

Younge, who headed the opposition group, polled only 136 votes out of 232 cast in the Friendship division, nine of which were rejected.

Following are the results in detail, the people's candidates being marked with an X:—

Friendship—Younge 136; London 114; Abrams 101; X Carter 109; X Forde 107. **Buxton**—X King 215; X Dundas 195; X Shivsankar (Sadhu) 192; Talbot 58; Anderson 58; Pollard 51.

Thus the people's candidates won four out of six elected seats. Yet this does not give them a majority on the council. The Younge group has already begun to boast of the support of three Government nominees in the forthcoming ballot among the councillors for the 1956 Chairman.

This means that these politicians confidently expect the Central Government to take their side in order to defeat the wishes of the people. A brief review of the election campaign will show how the wind blows.

Before nomination the people's candidates published a leaflet calling for support for King, Dundas, shivsanker, Carter and Forde, with G. A. Younge (independent). However, Younge, instigated by Burnham, came out with splitting tactics.

Empty boast

He declared himself on the side of certain candidates whose mishandling of the people, etc., are known to many. The Burnhamites' press published a handbill calling on Buxtonians to "unite and clear your council and your village of Sydney King and his gang."

Mr. Burnham, in an editorial in his paper, called for a victory of the candidates opposed to Sydney King, and prophesied "an overwhelming victory" for his group. "The result is foregone" BOASTED Mr. Burnham.

Jessie Burnham, G. A. Younge, Mrs. Talbot, Anderson, Pollard, went from house to house telling the people that if they should vote for King the colony will not be given general elections again, and that should King eventually become Chairman the new Governor would immediately DISRATE the village.

The police also joined the campaign against the people's candidates. They refused King permission to hold one meeting on the excuse that the matter was under consideration by Government. However, the Burnhamites were given permission for at least two meetings.

At the Burnhamite meeting on Saturday night 10th, the people refused to listen to Jessie Burnham and Fingall. Mrs. Talbot was shouted down when she attacked King as a Communist.

The people voted as shown above. They voted not for Communism, but for clear village administration, against rackets and curry favouring and oppressive measures against the people.

"Colonial officials consider themselves as representatives of Great Britain, and the interests of the people of the territory are secondary in importance to them.

"Also they do not hesitate, if the elected leaders become too demanding in their zeal for reform to cause constitutional crises and lead Britain to abolish the constitution."

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 100 Rochester Row, S.W.1

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WHO SUPPORTS CYPRUS?

ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, in the best biblical tradition, has come away unscathed from every enticement at the hands of the imperial serpent. Talks with the newly appointed British Governor have left the Archbishop more firmly pledged to the principle of self-determination. What a magnificent lesson for the West Indian Bishopry. Every expression of solidarity NOW, with Cyprus, will bring one day nearer, the liberation of all British colonials.

Since 1878, CYPRUS has been under British occupation. The people, racially and culturally, are a part of Greece, and started fighting for SELF-DETERMINATION at the end of the eighteenth century, when the Turkish Empire was supreme across the under belly of Europe. It has been a long and bitter struggle up to 1927, when some concessions were made in the Constitution. It altered as Jamaica's did, or Dominica or Trinidad or Guiana. Effective control still remained with the British Governor.

So it was in Guiana in 1953, so it was in Nicosia 1931, when around the protest on a Taxation Bill, feeling ran so high, the Colonial Office in London swept away the old façade, and the Governor ruled openly as a Dictator!

by Billy Strachan

The end of World War II saw a new era, that we too experienced in the Caribbean. As our own Labour Movement stirred restlessly, we were accorded the rubber glove treatment, but in Cyprus, the mailed fist crashed down on the heads of the whole trade union movement, jailing the lot for propagating—ENOSIS, union with Greece.

Still the working peoples' Party kept growing. It is known as A.K.E.L. Four out of the six mayors of the larger towns proudly adhere to A.K.E.L. One, the Mayor of Limassel, with his council, was sentenced in 1948, for renaming a street! Like our story, too, the foreign governors panicked at every token gesture (remember Burnham's textbooks scare?) of national self-assertion. How empty now the British Government's promises sound, of progress on towards self-government?

And then came Egypt. Forced from the canal zone by sheer mass pressure, the Mediterranean interlopers from Britain had to make one last stand. To add confidence, when the British Parliament in London decreed that Cyprus would be Britain's main military satelite in the Middle East, they announced simultaneously, that self-government promises for colonials, did NOT apply to Cyprus. Not a word from Manley Q.C., etc., not a howl from Gomes, not a squeak from Adams, C.M.G., etc. . . .

Perhaps the embarrassment of what half-a-million fighting Cypriots can do, put them to shame. How it exposes their nonsense of our 3½ million being too insignificant to stand on our own legs?

First, Britain tried the B.G. stunt of "development" to provide work for the unemployed. There are masses of unemployed in Nicosia, Kyrenia, Famagusta and Limassel. Army barracks were to go up, arterial roads were to be built, aerodromes sited. Yet the people rebelled. Too well they understood that these things were not in the interests of Cypriots. The Cypriots want, above all, the most honourable right, SELF-DETERMINATION. They want too, the material goods, their salt mines, their iron and copper deposits, these prizes that await freemen.

No better lesson

Be not misled by any propaganda of the fears of the Greek monarcho-fascist régime. Who could suppress these brave people, who are winning their freedom from British imperialism? They, with the Greek people, who too love liberty, will make governments answer to their demands. Look already at Papagos' decisions on the N.A.T.O. exercises, directed at intimidating the Middle East.

If ever we, or any other people wanted a lesson in the fight for national liberation, we could not do better than look to Cyprus. Archbishop Makarios, his clergy and his flock, all cry with A.K.E.L.—ENOSIS! 96% of all the population voted in 1950 in support at a plebiscite under the auspices of Ethnarchy. It is A.K.E.L. who preach this policy far and wide. It is A.K.E.L. who expose the brutality and trickery of British imperialism in partnership with their Yankee overlords, who own so many mines in Cyprus. It is A.K.E.L. who preach love and admiration for the Soviet Union—it is A.K.E.L. who preach Peace. **Peace,** so that colonials can be free and not harnessed by a military junta for intense exploitation. World Peace means the ending of all wars, colonial wars; world peace means the withdrawal of foreign troops from other peoples' territories; world peace means an opportunity for all of us to develop culturally and financially without waste and destruction.

Foreign terror

But as we cry Peace, and demand the right to live as man, ten thousand men come marching into Cyprus, led by Field Marshal Sir John Harding. 1,200 Royal Marine Commandos patrol Nicosia; a regiment of Gordon Highlanders fly out from Edinburgh; the 1st Battalion of Royal Norfolk Regiment also enplane from Lyneham, England, to meet colleagues of the 1st Battalion Royal Leicestershire on their way from the Sudan.

Any wonder when correspondents questioned the proud Archbishop Makarios as to whether he supported violence, his stinging reply cowed them to silence. We are a peaceful people, he explained, it is the foreigners who bring weapons of death and terrorism to our land.

But the imperialists will try every technique. In the one hand the bayonet, the other pumping tear-gas callously against a stone-throwing victorious crowd of patriots, while from the radio the voice of Harding, bringing gifts to Caesar, promising economic development, SOON! In the chaos, he contradicts his boss in London, he states:

> "The proposals also look forward to a time when self-government having been efficiently established . . . ".

How easy the words flow, when this frantic throw of the dice will decide, either a sticky end for imperialism in Cyprus, or yet another breather before the final victory for the people.

To sum up the struggle in Cyprus I will tell the story of my own barber—a cypriot.

Two years ago, as we chatted, with me sitting garbed in white bib, I expressed admiration for the Cypriots and sympathy with them over the common burden of occupying British troops. He rejected the sympathy; the army brings money, they need haircuts, they drink, they ride by bus, and we cypriots will flourish. I was squashed.

He cuts my hair satisfactorily—a worthy asset for coloured men in England—so, I was back again in the "chair" about a week ago as usual. He started the conversation, what do you think of what the British do in my country? I was non-committal. He continued, "it is difficult for me to control myself here, razor in hand, when my brothers at home, unarmed, unemployed and hungry have to face the b——— limeys."

This Cypriot girl in paper chains symbolises the struggle of her people to break the bonds of British Imperialism.

Blues singer barred

"Big Bill Broonzy"—American blues singer—was barred from a Nottingham hotel on Friday, November 4th, **because of his colour.**

Although the booking was made beforehand and he had stayed at the same hotel previously—there is no doubt of this **colour bar.**

On entering the hotel, a hall porter quite abruptly stated "No coloured people are allowed." So being upset, naturally, Bill walked out and though verbally appeased, preferred to stay elsewhere.

Dr. JAMES AND THE ARCHBISHOP

FOLLOWING Dr. Marcus James' concellation as Chaplain to a Birmingham diocese, by the Bishop, Dr. J. L. WILSON, the young Jamaican parson has had an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher.

Dr. JAMES issued a statement in London on November 7th, in which, amongst other comments, he stated, "His Grace was very cordial."

What barbs those velvet words cover, well you can have your guess?

St. VINCENT

from page 1

many evils that man has set to St. Vincent.

Joshua's demands can be summarised:

1. a Central Sugar Factory in order to compete with the MOUNT BENTNICK Tory owned monopoly,

2. the abolition of "task work" and the introduction of "day work" (a big advance on British Trade Union thinking).

3. increased prices to be paid by Starch manufacturers for ARROWROOT (he fully exposed the fact that small traders of the peasant community bought at 36 cents. per basket and made a living reselling it, whereas the big manufacturers paid only 24 cents. per basket).

Dirty tricks

4. Formation of a CANE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION for the protection of small peasant growers, against the factory owners who used every dirty trick and economic pressure to drive their selling prices down.

5. introduction of "time rates" also for coconut picking in place of the inequitable wage of 8 cents. per hundred.

6. demanded the protection by customs duties, for the declining SEA ISLAND COTTON industry which was being ruined by the introduction of Japanese products (another victim of Britain's recent submission to Yankee pressure to admit Japan to the **General Agreements on Trade and Tariffs).**

Here was a programme for many other West Indian islands to follow. The Hon. Joshua, M.L.C., in a full statement laid bare the government sponsored fight against all trade unionism; especially in the SUGAR INDUSTRY, namely at the Mt. Bentinck Sugar Estates where the management would not even bargain collectively with the only existing trade union.

Need British support

Consumer prices in St. Vincent are the same as anywhere else in The Caribbean, that is, twice as high as in Britain.

Much that has come to light is so shocking, that this report will probably be relegated to the archives of the government's vaults, to rot and decay.

To see any success for the demands of St. Vincent, it will mean a solid fight all the way for St. Vincentian workers, supported by all the West Indies. British trade unionists too, carry a large measure of responsibility for it is they who elect the governments that perpetrate this moral crime of COLONIALISM.

Free This Negro Mother and Her Two Sons

THE. Women's International Democratic Federation has for the past seven years given full support to all action aiming at the liberation of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, Negro mother of the United States, and her two sons.

All three have been sentenced to life imprisonment for having defended themselves against the attacks of a white farmer in the southern state of Georgia.

The W.I.D.F. has just received, from the Provisional Committee to Free the Ingrams (the chairman of which is Mrs. Amy Hunt, the mother of Mrs. Ingram), the following appeal, asking support for the new campaign to return this mother to her twelve children.

Here is an extract of this appeal:

"The freedom of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram and her sons is of grave and immediate concern to people of goodwill here and abroad. Inhumanities like the imprisonment of the Ingrams, the brutal lynching of the fourteen years old Emmet Louis Till in Mississippi, and the lynching of the Rev. Lee and Mr. Lamar Smith in the same state, for exercising the right to vote, are practices that must be uprooted in our country.

"Only a vigorous campaign of concerted effort, extending around the world, will stop these atrocities against the Negro people."

The Committee asks that on the occasion of Human Rights Day, December 10h, 1955, all people of good will who want to see justice done in the case of this innocent mother and her two sons, should send telegrams to President Eisenhower asking him to intercede to set them free.

Tory demands 'Ban all immigrants'

MR. C. OSBOURNE, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Louth, asked the Prime Minister, on Thursday, 10th November to take immediate steps to control all immigration into the United Kingdom.
MR. C. OSBOURNE, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Louth, asked the Prime Minister, on Thursday, 10th November to take immediate steps to control all immigration into he United Kingdom.

Naturally, the Prime Minister, the cynical SIR ANTHONY EDEN, himself a Conservative, replied that migration of aliens had long been controlled, adding:

> "at the same time the House will bear in mind the traditions we have hitherto been careful to observe about the rights of British subjects."
> (LAUGHTER).

* * *

New money for Caribbean

All British occupied Caribbean territories, excepting JAMAICA, introduced a unified system of currency on November 15th.

The decimal currency is based on the local dollar, with the cent as one-hundreth part. The coins were struck by the British Royal Mint, and will bear on one side, the crowned effigy of the British Queen, as it appears on the coins of other British controlled territories.

★

Deportation

CLAUDIA JONES, great fighter for Negro rights in the United States, is to be deported to Britain on December 9th.

Born in Trinidad, she left for America when just eight years of age.

Though ill for several months, Claudia Jones was imprisoned and persecuted by the American Justice Department because of her progressive ideas.

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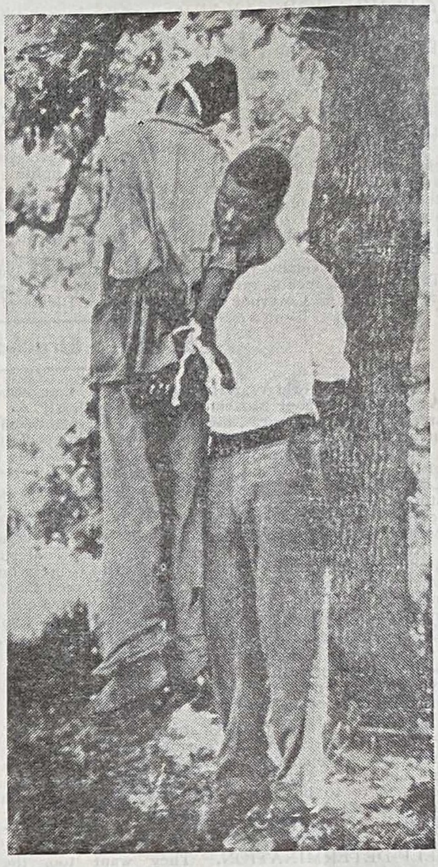

Victims of American Lynch Justice

Jamaican Woman

from page 1

Mothers regardless of political or religious beliefs. Conservatives, Catholics, Socialists, Communists, and women of every conceivable political and religious viewpoint, all sat together for four days discussing their common problems and endeavoring to forge unity for the solutions of these problems".

Mrs. Williams said the Fifth World Festival of Youth was the most impressive demonstration she witnessed during the tour. She declared Warsaw was the Capital of the world Youth, and to see and hear these hundreds of thousands of young people from every country of the world chatting, singing, dancing and generally making friends was truly encouraging. Mrs. Williams also spoke of the work of the Polish Youth in preparing their capital city to receive foreign guests. She said this magnificant achievement by the Polish Youth supported by the Government, was a warmhearted demonstration of international friendship.

Many thanks

Closing Mrs. Williams returned thanks to the Women's International Democratic Federation, the Peoples of Poland, Germany and the Soviet Union, and to the British National Assembly of Women, whose guest she was after her return from the continent, for the warm and kind-hearted reception she received during her visit abroad. "To the many friends I have made in the countries I have visited many, many thanks, and one day I hope to welcome you to Jamaica".

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Federation Special

page 3

FROM Tuesday, February 7th, delegations from the West Indies are meeting in Lancaster House, London, to discuss final plans for Federation. This is an important event in the lives of all West Indians, whether for good or bad. Realising that it will occupy readers' attention considerably during this period, "Caribbean News" devotes special space to Federation on this issue and have secured the views of prominent political movements in the West Indies which will not be heard in Lancaster House.

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

January-March 1956

DEMANDS OF JAMAICAN SUGAR WORKERS

A CONFERENCE of over 300 delegates representing sugar cane workers of 19 cane farms met recently in Logwood, Jamaica.

It dealt with the current demands of the plantation workers, especially their claim for increases on the present rates of pay for the various categories of work on these farms, and to include the demand for an increase from 25/- to 80/- per week for farm headmen and from 40/- to 70/- per week for side-men.

Several leaders of the Jamaican Federation of Trade Unions and of the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union were present at the conference. A series of meetings were organised in the areas concerned following on the conference.

No Rival to P.P.P. in Guiana

IF elections were held tomorrow in British Guiana the Peoples's Progressive Party would win an overwhelming majority. This view is expressed in the British publication the "ECONOMIST", representing influential financial circles, in its issue of January 28th.

After saying that the new Governor had departed from the policy of ex-Governor Savage of "hamstringing" the P.P.P., and was allowing meetings to be held, it then refers to the P.P.P's. activity in the past two years, and says:

"The result of the party's activity and its partial martyrdom has been to strengthen its hold over the electorate".

". . . detached observers in the colony agree that if free elections were allowed tomorrow the P.P.P. would walk into power with a vast majority. No rival, moderate party has grown up during the past two years which can command any respect whatever; the mercantile classes, both Indian and African, to whom the administration looked in the hope that they would give some worthwhile political lead have merely lapsed back into their commerce, feeling secure now that British troops are to remain in the colony indefinitely".

Superficial

"A few months ago at the annual meeting of the P.P.P. (a special dispensation to hold it was given by the Governor) Mr. Burnham engineered a COUP D'ETAT by which he seized virtually all power", because Jagan's support is in the coastal belt, while Burnham's is in Georgetown.

It remarks that there are two Thunder's published, and goes on: "Mr. Burnham's leaders are of great interest and, being intended for the Guianese, reveal nothing of the compromise which, in his relations with the administration, he seems willing to pursue".

It then talks about government spending on rehousing, and says this is "superficial, shopwindow form of improvement", mainly to catch the eye.

Arguing for land reform and reclamation as the means of winning the people, it says:

"Land reform and reclamation are the two great cries of the P.P.P.—and much of what it says about both subjects is good sense".

The article is written 'by a correspondent recently in B.G.'.

Exclusive interview with Champion Boxer

World famous boxer, Yolande Pompey, seen here with his charming wife in their London home, has given an exclusive interview to our reporter. Now see back page for story

Coalition for Trinidad Local Elections

THE West Indian Independence Party and the United Land Tenants Association will jointly support candidates in the County Council elections on February 20th. The Party and the U.L.T.A. intend to participate in the elections on the basis of a Labour Coalition Front. Preparation is going ahead for the elections.

Candidates are expected to be nominated in the Counties of St. George, Nariva-Mayoro and Victoria.

Other Parties expected to support Candidates in the elections are the Party of Political Progress Groups (P.O.P.P.G.), the Butler Party. So far the Independent Labour Party has made no public declarations. While Hon. Bhadase Maharaj as yet has no party structure, he is known to be supporting a number of candidates in various constituencies.

GRENADA GETS SOME MONEY

Most heavily hit by the recent hurricane in the British West Indies, the island of Grenada has been granted sums of money by the British Government towards the cost of rehabilitation.

Two million pounds are being granted as a free grant, while £1½ million will be as a loan. In addition, the Grenada Government itself is to contribute £30,000 from its own resources, and £312,500 will come out of Grenada's share of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Severe damage was done to crops, buildings and communications, with a high toll of life, in this small island of 85,000 population.

BARBADOS RELIEF

BARBADOS.—Money collected and sent by the Caribbean Labour Congress (London) for the relief of Barbadians stricken by hurricane Janet, has been received here for the sum of $583 through Barclays Bank.

A Relief Committee to organise the distribution was set up, headed by Carlton Gill. The committee distributed sums to parents of school children, as well as to parishioners of St. Michael, St. Philip and St. Thomas. Part was also donated to the Regent High School to assist in the damages to their recently acquired building.

Parcels of clothing sent by the 'Ariguani' were distributed to residents of Melrose and Bridgfield in St. Thomas, two badly hit areas.
(From our Barbados correspondent).

★ EDITORIAL ★

Fraudulent Federation

TALKED about and agitated for, over many years, it now seems almost certain that Federation, or more correctly, what is disguised to look like Federation of the British West Indies, is about to be realised.

For, beginning on Tuesday, February 7th, for a period of three weeks, a Conference will be taking place in London bringing together West Indian "representatives" to try to work out and settle among themselves the final differences and mechanics of Federation.

Mr. Lennox-Boyd, British Colonial Secretary, is expected to open this Conference at which the representatives of the British Government play the biggest part.

At this stage we do not know what those final arrangements will be, concerning financing of the Federal Government, location of the Federal Capital, etc.

But this much is well known—that these "delegates" have accepted the major principles of the notorious Rance Report as the basis of Federation. It is well worth studying the details of this Plan which is explained and analysed on page 3, to see how in fact our Glorious Crown Colony Federation is retained firmly in the grips of the British Government.

Not people's plan

It is important to realise that this Plan is not one of OUR making, of the West Indian people, but is the scheme of British imperialism, using the gullibility and careerism of our "representatives" to further its own interests.

This is achieved by transferring the costs of administering the Super Crown Colony on to the backs of the West Indian people while at the same time withholding the benefits which should accrue as a result.

Federation would be a blessing to the West Indies, providing West Indians have full control of their destinies.

The West Indies is rich in economic resources which an independent, united people could build up, free from the stifling hand of colonialism.

But no—this Fraudulent Federation being imposed on us has no prospects for freedom. The prevailing mode of thought is that this system will last for years and years, once a sop has been offered.

Until we can stand on our feet economically, we are told by our masters, we must continue to receive grants, and as long as we receive grants so long will we be held in subjection.

But here is a vicious circle. How can we ever stand on our feet when our resources and national wealth are drained off continually by the very people who allegedly are trying to help us?

So here is the answer. We must break this vicious circle and press on with the struggle for a really democratic independent Federation along the lines advocated by the progressive political parties in the West Indies, some of whose views are published in this issue.

As the People's Freedom Movement of Jamaica says, we must continue to expose the British imposed plan for the fraud that it is.

We reject this Plan as totally unbefitting the enlightened temper and spirit of our people, as a mockery of our long held aspirations.

One solution

West Indians who have been forced by economic circumstances to emigrate in order to better their livelihoods will certainly not find anything inspiring in this Federation Plan.

What has it got to offer the emigree to return to his native land?—Nothing, absolutely nothing!

The West Indian who has come to England in recent times will not be able to pack up and go home to a rising, prospering country with bountiful, satisfying jobs.

But those of us who are away from our homes because imperialism impoverishes our land, would only too gladly return to our country, friends and families when once a free West Indies emerges in the world.

That cannot be achieved by wishful thinking, however, but needs courage, struggle and sacrifice —qualities which West Indians do not lack.

So let us decide, West Indians in Britain, to continue our fight, in unity with our people at home for our common aim—an independent, democratic Caribbean Federation.

Was Khruschov wrong — Is Colonialism Really Dead?

asks John Baird, Labour M.P., who reviews '133 Days Towards Freedom' by Ashton Chase

OF all the excuses afterwards given for the abrogation of the B.G. Constitution, surely the most stupid was in the words of the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, when he said:

"So much could have been done but so little was attempted in the social and economic field".

This pamphlet "133 Days Towards Freedom in Guiana" by Ashton Chase, himself a Minister in the P.P.P. Government, gives the lie to that argument.

John Baird, M.P.

The P.P.P. was hated, feared and ultimately thrown out of office because they tried to do too much not too little. They were a young party in a hurry.

Jagan, Burnham and their friends have been accused of being Communists and of attempting to set up a Communist state. Some of them may have been Communists—some most certainly were not.

Their policy was a policy of social reform—of better health, more houses and schools. The encouragement of genuine Trade Unions rather than company unions, of land settlement and capital reconstruction. This was the programme which made the Governor, the Civil Servants and Messrs. Booker Brothers shudder.

I remember when the news broke that troops were on their way to Georgetown and that the Constitution had been revoked. Many Labour members in the House of Commons were bewildered, for was not His Excellency an old Fabian and one of ourselves? "There must be more behind the crisis than we had been told" we argued.

★

Of course there was. Behind the Governor stood the Sugar Barons and the Civil Servants—especially the Chief Secretary Mr. Gutch.

"Heaven protect us from our friends" should be our motto in the Socialist movement, for (perhaps unwittingly) there is no greater enemy of social progress and socialism than he who argues as the Fabians do, "For Socialism—but please God, not in our time!"

In England and throughout the British Empire it is these people who use the language of Socialism to justify reaction and colonialism who are our greatest enemies and they have not all white skins.

I myself had many opportunities of discussing their problems with both Jagan and Burnham when they were over here and know something of how they tried to make B.G. a happier land.

But for those who have not had such an opportunity I recommend this pamphlet which is well written yet factual.

POSTSCRIPT—after having read this booklet might I ask the readers a straight question. "Was Mr. Khrushchov wrong—Is Colonialism really dead?"

Union Organiser averts walkout on coloured workers

INTERVENTION by officials of the National Union of Railwaymen, prevented a ban on overtime agreed on by workers at Ferme Park Sidings, Harringay West, London, in protest against the employment of a Jamaican shunter.

This demonstration was sequel to protests made two years ago by the workers through their Local Departmental Committee (not connected with the union), against the employment of any coloured or foreign shunter, although the staff at this Depot is well below strength with the consequence that the workers are forced to work excessive overtime. It was also brought out in their protest that they would like the Management to draw the line at the number of coloured shunters they will employ.

At a meeting of the workers called by the N.U.R., Mr. H. Shearer, the North London Organiser, pointed out that the Union will not support any discrimination against coloured British subjects. He also said that British subjects will be taken on subject to the terms of the 1951 agreement of the N.U.R., which laid down that until they are found to be unsuitable they will have a right to employment and promotion in all grades. He reminded his audience of the years of capitalist exploitation of colonials by the British ruling class, and stressed that workers should extend the hand of friendship to British colonials.

Following the discussions the workers decided to carry on working normally. Prior to this event however, the local representative of the British Transport Commission at the Depot confirmed that he had no authority to refuse employment to suitable coloured applicants.

West Indians and other colonials should glean from these incidents the fact that only by supporting the Trade Union Movement and taking an active interest in their respective Unions can their interest be served.

Caribbean News Reporter

Do West Indians slack on railways?

I RECENTLY spoke on behalf of the CLC(L/B) to a branch of the National Union of Railwaymen on the subject of coloured workers in Britain.

There was a fairly good turn-out of about 35 members, among whom was one West Indian—from Jamaica.

As readers already know, there is acute feeling among sections of British workers and trade unionists concerning the introduction of coloured workers. In many cases, where there may be initial prejudice, after a period of working together it frequently breaks down.

I thought it necessary to give a bit of the background to West Indian emigration, some facts on the West Indies, etc., and then led on to the problem of jobs, housing and so on.

During question and discussion time, several speakers upheld the right of our people to independence and equality. One member, however, voiced the amazement that only one coloured brother had thought it fit to come to the meeting although several were invited.

But it was only after the actual meeting, in an informal chat over a glass of beer, that more serious views were expressed. For example, that several coloured chaps did not 'pull their weight' on the job with their fellow workers, and that they tended to keep apart and not come forward sufficiently to meet their white brothers, attend union meetings etc.

Space does not permit fuller treatment of this issue now, but this paper intends to return to examine these questions in future, and would like to hear what readers' experiences are, and their views on solving these relations.

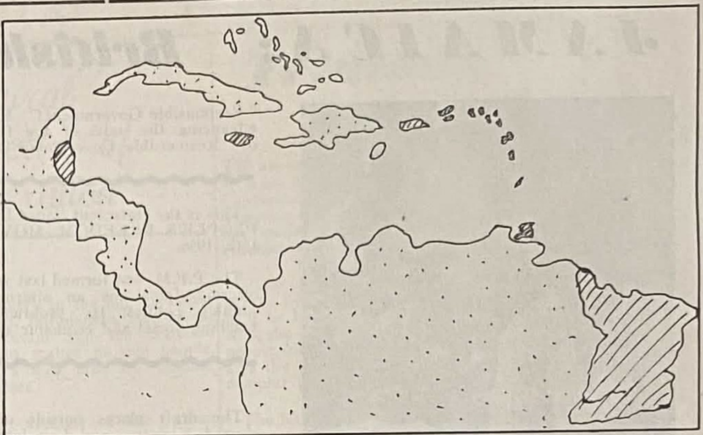
R.C.

WRITE AND LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS

FEDERATION

What Future for the Caribbean ?

★ HOW FAR DO THE LONDON FEDERATION TALKS GO TO ADVANCE THE LONG CHERISHED AIM OF A
★ UNITED, FREE WEST INDIES?



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Guianese say—

JANET JAGAN

Secretary of the P.P.P. gives the Party's view

I SHOULD like to deal briefly with the policy of the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana on the question of Federation.

In April 1950, shortly after the formation of the Party, it issued its first statement on its aims and programme. In this statement, the Party took the stand of the Caribbean Labour Congress in the acceptance of the principle of Federation on the condition that the Federal Government have dominion status and that each unit should be self-governing.

Unacceptable

The Party officially commented on the Rance Report with these words:

> "While the People's Progressive Party is in principle committed to and in favour of Federation with self-government, it should be quite apparent that it cannot accept the recommendations of the British Caribbean Standing Closer Association Committee which offers a constitution far removed from that suggested by the Caribbean Labour Congress and its affiliates in the West Indies.
>
> "This Report suggests the continuation of the nominated system which is to assume that the area is politically immature. It is difficult to understand why it was necessary to recommend a second nominated, chamber except to obstruct the will of the people in the House of Assembly . . .
>
> "As regards the Council of State which is to be the Executive, this should be completely chosen by the Prime Minister who has the confidence and support of the House of Assembly and not partly nominated by the Governor General.
>
> "Again, there should be no official on the Council of State . . . The Members of the Council of State should have full ministerial status and responsibility and their advice through the Prime Minister to the Governor-General should be compulsorily accepted.

People's control

> "The method of appointment of the Governor-General is a matter of vital importance. The Governor-General should only be appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. after consultation with his Council of State.
>
> "If the Federation is to be successful, the affairs of the Federation must be run and controlled by the peoples of the Federation through their elected representatives. We fear that under the constitution suggested by the Report, Government by the people, for the people and of the people is not altogether assured. Changes in the proposed constitution along the lines suggested are necessary before this stage could be reached . . ."

JANET JAGAN

The Party also pointed out that the powers granted to the Governor-General were too wide in that he is empowered to assent or withhold assent from any bill and can prorogue the Senate, the House of Assembly and dissolve the House. The reserve powers given to Her Majesty are far reaching and would greatly limit the responsibility of the elected representatives.

Referendum

In British Guiana, the proposal to federate with the other West Indian territories brought a great deal of controversy. There were (and are) those calling for federation at all costs, no federation whatsoever as well as the proposal that Guiana's future lay in her continental destiny.

Unfortunately, reactionary politicians have encouraged racial antagonisms on the federal question and today there are strong racial feelings involved.

Because of the sharp differences of opinion, the P.P.P. in its election manifesto of April 1953 stated, "the P.P.P. when elected to power will only commit British Guiana to Federation based on self-government after the people have expressed by way of Referendum the desire to enter into the Federation".

Last year, when federation was again aired, this time in the puppet Legislature which has ruled since the P.P.P. was ousted, the Party again reviewed its stand. The Executive officially reapproved its policy towards federation as stated in the 1953 election manifesto.

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HERE IS THE ACTUAL PLAN

ANALYSED BY Y. M. HOSEIN

FEDERATION is not a new thing in British Caribbean history. On the one hand, the attractiveness of reducing administrative expenses and centralising control for prompt action in case of rebellion, on the other political independence with economic advantage to the people, have led to various conferences on federation over the past 100 years, but with little result.

From 1929 the demand for federation and independence grew rapidly, and was fully expressed by the Caribbean Labour Congress at its Kingston Conference in 1947, when it called for a Federation with full representative and responsible government based on Universal Adult Suffrage.

The same year, under Colonial Office direction, a conference at Montego Bay was held, and the Standing Closer Association Committee was set up. The report of this committee, published in 1950, forms the basis of the British Caribbean Federation Plan.

RIGGED COMMITTEE

The nature and composition of this committee is as interesting as the report itself. No better comment on it could be made than that of Richard Hart, who points out that "by the simple expedient of failing to introduce democracy into the units before the discussions began, it has been possible to ensure that a majority of the delegates from the various legislatures would be reactionaries or propertied persons who could be relied upon NOT to fight for self-government".

The delegations forming the committee were chosen by their legislatures, most of which had nominated members, while the representatives were elected on a limited franchise, so that the committee was at no time representative, and its proposals do not reflect the aspirations of the majority of the people. Following is a brief summary of the Plan:

1. There would be a British Caribbean Federation with legislative power vested in a Governor-General representing the Queen, a Senate, and a House of Representatives.

2. A Senate of 19 Senators, appointed by the Governor-General in his discretion, two for each unit, except Montserrat with one, while the House of Representatives has 45 members, elected largely on a population basis. The Senate has delaying powers of one year for all except Money Bills, which it can hold back for three months.

SUPREME POWERS

3. The Governor-General has veto powers on all Bills, and may also reserve Bills for Her Majesty's pleasure, when they deal with defence, foreign affairs, currency, financial assistance from the United Kingdom, or any Bill suspending or amending the Constitution.

The British Parliament has no general power to disallow Federal laws assented by the Governor-

continued on page 5

FEDERATION

JAMAICA: British Plan is a Fraud

Rolly Simms (left) is Secretary of the People's Freedom Movement

THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT condemns as a fraud the proposed constitution for the Federation of the British Caribbean territories which will form the basis of the forthcoming London Conference. This draft does not give the people of the Caribbean territories political freedom.

It is not "Dominion Status". It is not even "Responsible Government!" Nor does it provide for advancing the units of the federation to the level of "Responsible Government" now.

This is the statement issued by the Executive of the PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT on January 15th, 1956.

The P.F.M. was formed last year as a political party offering Jamaicans an alternative to Bustamente-Manley politics. Its program provides for far-reaching social and economic reforms.

The draft places outside of the control of the elected Ministers and Legislature, the imposition of deferential customs duties. If we cannot discriminate against certain imports by raising import duties so as to help native industry, what advantage will Federation be to us?

Snare and trap

The draft also excludes any measure which in the opinion of the Governor-General will "adversely affect" the finances of the federation. We must be suspicious of this because it would allow the Governor-General to block almost anything at his discretion. It is significant that the earlier 1948 draft said "gravely imperil" whereas this draft says "adversely affect".

The draft further reserves to the British Government the matter of Defence. What is meant by "Defence?" We are not going to war with anybody. This is simply an excuse for keeping white troops in the Caribbean and for keeping the control of our own boys in uniform in the hands of white officers.

The draft also reserves all international obligations accepted on our behalf by the British Government. Why should Britain be allowed to commit us to any international obligations without our consent?

It is clear now that the kind of federation the British Government is trying to force on the Caribbean territories is a snare and a trap to keep the more advanced territories under their control. We cannot allow the Colonial Office to have the deciding voice in this matter.

Reject it

We reject this Federation now being imposed on us by the British Government. Any Federation worked out on our behalf by the British Government which has held us in slavery for 300 years, must necessarily mean the strengthening of imperialism in the Caribbean.

This Federation is only being supported by Manley and Bustamante; not the people—because it will mean more and bigger jobs for the politicians and also a place of refuge for local political rejects.

The people will never honour the decisions taken by them—Manley, Busta and the British Government—to impose Federation on us.

Let the people of Jamaica demand Jamaica's political freedom first. Then a free Jamaica can negotiate with other free units of the Caribbean on the question of Federation without interference or control by the British Government.

ST. VINCENT

STOP THIS GAME OF STOOGE

says E. T. JOSHUA

President of People's Political Party and member of Legislative Council

THE manner in which a British West Indian Federation has been shaping itself, even after the first Conference held in London, gave the general impression that all the cards were not placed on the table.

Those cards left in the pack were the very political life fabric of any enduring system of Federation, namely: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL WITHIN THE FEDERATION, FREE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE PEOPLES TO BE FEDERATED.

People left out

The various West Indian Governments, backed up by the Colonial Office, were careful to avoid any airing of local views between the islands among the people who will subsequently be shackled with whatever brand of Federation Whitehall may choose to dish out.

This has been effected by banning progressive leaders who have the support of their people from travelling between the territories. Some of these leaders although represented on certain Councils have been overlooked.

Legislatures of the various units (especially those with a majority of elected members) should not have been made to use the people's votes to send a Crown Attorney to a serious event as the final Federation talks in London.

Absentee profiteers

No federation was ever known to exclude the leaders of the people, and by the power of the local Executive Councils create fascist laws to imprison leaders without trial in their territory.

What most of the people are fearful of is that since there is no control of the vast wealth of the area passing away to absentee shareholders in the United Kingdom, and since the control of finance is

denied the W. I. Federation to be, they fear a danger of disintegration and abject poverty among the masses, more than death itself.

We in the West Indies who would like to see the mass of our people protected under a system of federation are disturbed when we study the attitude of Britain in dealing with British Guiana, where a democratically elected government was dissolved and a dictatorship set up in its place.

Sharing the blame

Many of those who had been rejected by the people were the type of men the Colonial Office sought to set in power over the country on the verge of such a change in the Caribbean—Federation.

West Indians themselves will have to share a large percentage of the blame for whatever rotten type of federation may be dished out to us.

This is because men are going on these delegations and allowing themselves to be used to play the role of "stooge", thus betraying the people they should be representing.

While talking federation, a vicious show of force is raised in the form of West Indian Regiment, taking one percent. of total revenue. Battalions of British soldiers are brought and stationed indefinitely in Guiana. Honest people know that all these armies were prepared in advance of a cut-and-dried Federation without independence, with the intention of keeping us perpetually subjugated.

From the present attitude of the Adams', Gomes' and the Bustas', we fear what a W.I. Federation would be when we study their attitude towards the people in the respective territories.

Importee dumping-ground

As for the three White Papers prepared on the Federal Civil Service, Fiscal and Law, I wish to observe that much corruption and upheld miscarriage of justice are found rampant in the West Indies.

The Civil Service Commissioner's Report may make its utopian proposals but it is our experience in the smaller territories that some of them act as mere dumping grounds for some of the most ignorant, foolish and ill-advised importees from the British isles.

Suspicion

There is just ground for suspicion on the happenings now causing the quickening of a W.I. Federation. There is a complete absence of any consideration in some of the units to be federated for the real leaders who represent the will of the people, and for their representation at this Conference.

All the genuine trade union leaders should have a place around the conference table, but this is not so.

We therefore beseech all West Indians whose honour is still with our suffering ancestors, to stop that awful game of "stooge" and serve in the several positions offered to every one to make the best of whatever type of federation the British have in mind.

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FEDERATION

The Slave is still a Ghost Living Between Us

by

MARTIN CARTER

Cultural Aspects of Federation

THERE should be no need for me to refer to the history of the West Indies, although I still find it necessary to emphasize its origin in the slavery of Africans on sugar plantations.

Many of us living in this second half of the 20th century do not yet realise how profoundly the institution of slavery moulded and still moulds our psychological make-up. To many of us slavery is still something that existed a long time ago, in a period remote and shadowy and without any bearing on our present life in this world.

But strange as it may seem, the slave is still a ghost living between us, a ghost that we have to exorcise in order to grow up.

It is this institution of slavery in the old days that ties us all together, Jamaican, Trinidadian, Barbadian, Guianese. It is this institution and the common ruling power around it that makes us one people, reaching from behind like a long arm and holding every one in a strong embrace.

This, of course, takes no account of the Indian minority in the West Indies. And to the objection that the Indian minority is excluded by this argument, the reply is that Federation in the West Indies already exists, in a cultural sense, among the people of Indian descent no less than among the people of African descent, both horizontally and vertically.

Huge gap

Between the administrative preoccupations of the British Government and the social, economic and cultural requirements of the West Indian people, a huge gap exists, a gap which will continue to exist until the West Indian people rule themselves.

If on the other hand we ignore the cultural reality of the region and seek to remain isolates, each one of us in a separate spiritual island, then it is difficult to see ourselves becoming anything other than little country districts in a big world—counties without a country.

But at the same time it is not easy to see how Federation, as designed by the British Government, will satisfy the tremendous requirements of the people.

Trinidad Campaign

IN an open letter to the delegation of the Government of Trinidad that is to attend the Federation Conference in London, Dr. Eric Williams has set out objections to the scheme that is to be adopted, and has made proposals for what he considers a more representative plan.

"The Plan for a British Caribbean Federation agreed by the Conference on West Indian Federation held in London in April 1953, is not in consonance with the political aspirations of the British Caribbean people, the objective economic necessities of the area, and the progressive spirit which today pervades all colonial peoples."

The letter goes on to say:

"The economic development of the British Caribbean area, to ensure which must be the primary aim of Federation, cannot possibly be anticipated under the continuation of a system which has proved bankrupt in all the constituent units of the federation and has been unmistakably repudiated by some."

Dr. Williams, formerly employed by the Caribbean Commission, has been conducting a signature campaign on the basis of his open letter, and has been very successful.

Objections

Some of the objections to the present Plan include the sweeping powers of the Governor-General, which "transfers to the federal level the very colonialism to which we have been subjected at the territorial level."

He is content, however, that the reserve powers be limited to defence, international obligations involving defence and currency, for a maximum of five years.

In addition, he wants all officials to be removed from the Council of State as a matter of right, and the composition of the entire Council of State to be determined by the Prime Minister in his discretion as the representative of the majority party in the Federal House of Representatives.

The West Indian Independence Party of Trinidad and Tobago, although conscious of weaknesses in Dr. Williams' draft, is nevertheless supporting the open letter in an effort to build the widest possible front.

Leeward Islands De-Federated

WHILE moves are being made to federate the West Indian territories, the Leeward Islands have recently been de-federated.

Formerly comprising four Presidencies, they have now been broken up into separate colonies—Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. The bill abolishing the Federal Government was passed in Westminster last November.

It is claimed that the new arrangement will make it easier for the colonies to enter the proposed Caribbean Federation.

THE FEDERATION PLAN

from page 3

General, except where Federal Stock is concerned. The Crown may also make laws for the Federation by Order in Council in matters of defence, foreign affairs, or concerning the financial stability of the region.

4. Main instrument of policy is the Council of State, whose job is to advise the Governor-General on the exercise of Executive power. The Council consists of 14 members: a Prime Minister elected by the House of Representatives, and seven nominated from the House by the Prime Minister, but appointed by the Governor-General who also appoints three Senators and three Officials. The Prime Minister and his seven nominees form a "cabinet group" in the Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES

5. Legislative matters are divided into Exclusive, Concurrent and Residual. The Federal Parliament has the sole right to make laws on all matters included in the Exclusive List, covering foreign affairs, defence and finance, while both the Federal and Unit Parliaments may legislate on matters mentioned in the Concurrent List. This covers banking, industrialisation, industrial disputes, postal services and revenue, trade and trade unions.

In case of dispute or disagreement between Unit and Federal law, the latter takes precedent. All items not stated in either Exclusive or Concurrent Lists, are the Residual powers left to the Unit Legislatures.

BANS REMAIN

6. On the movement of persons within the Federation, the issue is confused. The Preamble to the Constitution would state the desirability for the "greatest possible freedom of movement". But through the Concurrent List, the Units retain the right to impose bans and deportations on "health and security" grounds, as well as any control they may wish to impose subject to the approval by Resolution of both Chambers of the Federal Legislature.

7. Federation must precede political independence. The latter will come when there is financial stability. As long as there are grant-aids from the United Kingdom Treasury, or Colonial Development and Welfare, there will not be any political freedom.

8. The Governor-General's powers are very great. He appoints the Senators and members of the Council of State. He may veto legislisation as well as reserve Bills for the Crown. He may dissolve the House at his discretion.

NOTHING BINDING

The Council of State is summoned and dismissed as he thinks fit. He "shall consult with the Council" and act in accordance with its advice except when "he considers it expedient he could act without securing the advice of the Council of State or the Prime Minister (as the case may be)", provided he secured the prior approval of the Secretary of State.

But if he considers there is an emergency, he could act on his own, reporting the matter later. Advice of the Council, whether given, and/if so what, cannot be raised in any court of law.

These are some of the main points in the Plan. It is rather shameful that West Indians were partner to them. There is nothing of the aspirations of the Caribbean people for independence, nor anything about improvement in economic conditions. No wonder British Honduras said it is a betrayal of the past and an impediment to the future.

STIFLING PROGRESS

Although the representative principle is included, there is no provision for responsible government. There is no mention of Party government, and the bans on travel see to it that an organised progressive movement is almost impossible.

A central organisation of progressives would work for social and economic improvement in the whole area, and this would threaten the high rate of profit extracted by the capitalists. So difficulties have been put in the way of united action.

There is to be a Prime Minister without any Cabinet. The Council of State negates the Cabinet principle of collective and responsible government, since the members are not selected on the same basis and do not owe responsibility to a common head. The Prime Minister is a mere figurehead.

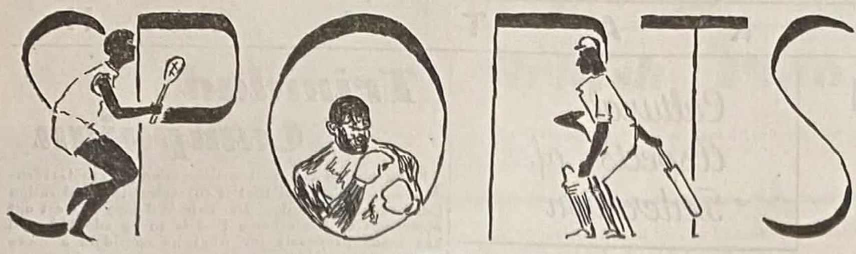
One of the worst features of Colonialism—nominated members—has been retained. The Prime Minister can refuse any responsibility for failures since there is no Cabinet government.

The Governor-General has the excuse that he acts on the advice of the Council of State, while the nominated members, not having to face elections, are unconcerned save for their own interests.

As though the immense powers of the Governor-General are not enough, political control has been firmly placed in the hands of the Crown. There is not even a grudging request for self-government and independence. We are to crave the indulgence of the Crown on all important matters.

There is no provision for ensuring the use of our resources in our own interest. On the contrary, the aim is to cover federal expenses by further squeezing the people. Most of the wealth produced is exported. And this is the crux of the matter.

So long as our resources are exported to our detriment, so long will some form of grant-aid be necessary, thus prolonging absentee political as well as economic domination.



Pompey Fights His Way to Top

The great West Indian boxer, Yolande Pompey has given this exclusive interview to Caribbean News reporter, ERIC DESLANDES.

A NEW chapter has been written in the sporting annals of the British West Indies. After years of toil, blood and sweat, the rugged determination of 26-year-old Trinidadian boxer, Yolande Pompey, has brought him to his final goal—the fight for the world light heavyweight championship.

When Pompey meets American Negro Archie Moore, world title holder, at the Harringay Arena on March 13th, the game West Indian will need all the skill and ringcraft he possesses to beat the 36-year-old ring veteran.

'Tiger of the Ring'

I spent a most enjoyable evening with Yolande Pompey and his charming Jamaican-born wife, at their home in London. As we talked, the "tiger of the ring" played with his pet, a budgie he called "pretty boy," while his wife served refreshments. Modest and unassuming, it was no fun to get this West Indian sportsman ambassador to talk. Present, too, were old friends of Pompey, who had known him when he was practically unknown in the boxing world, and they told me that Yolande never forsakes an old friend. One can see why his popularity will remain long after his boxing career is ended.

This West Indian rides the waves of fame and fortune with all the calm and grace of a born sportsman, and though a very modest man to talk to, there is nothing modest about his achievements.

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After ruling the middleweight division in the West Indies for some time, Yolande decided to seek further laurels in Britain. His first outing came with a match in July 1951 with Sammy Wilde of Nigeria. Pompey knocked him out in the fifth round, and the same month took on the Englishman Dave Williams, whom he defeated by a TKO in the first round.

Success again

In August of the same year he was matched with middleweight Bert Saunders, whom he disposed of by a TKO in the fifth round. That same month he crushed the hopes of Jamaica's Bill Jackson at Liverpool, a boxer with one of the longest reaches in the game, by a knock-out in the fifth round. With barely four weeks' rest, he took on the promising British middleweight Tony Lord, and made quick work of him by a knock-out in the third round. His next opponent, Billy Woods, went the way of the others by a knock-out in the second round. In the October of 1951 he outpointed the tough Italian Bernardo Pacini over ten rounds.

After this fight came the biggest test up to then, when he met the Australian and British Empire middleweight champion, the late Dave Sands, in November 1951.

Fans will remember this fight for the display of sheer guts and stickability which made Yolande Pompey the winner. For the first six rounds Dave Sands gave the game West Indian a lesson in boxing. Cut and bleeding, Yolande dashed from the corner as the bell sounded for the seventh round, and carried the fight to his opponent. A barrage of lefts and uppercuts forced the referee to stop the fight when Sands lay helpless against the ropes. It was this fight more than any other which gave Pompey international recognition, and he has not looked back since.

Future prospects

In February of 1952 he took on Willie Schagen of Holland and won by a TKO in the tenth round. This success was followed by a KO over Eric Jenson of Denmark in the second round and Italian Guilliano Pacini by a quick knock-out in the third round. Pompey found difficulty in keeping his weight down to the middle-weight mark, and was determined to try his luck in the light-heavy division. Fighting in this weight he outpointed American Negro Jimmy Slade, conqueror of Don Cockell, now British heavyweight champion.

When quizzed on his plan of attack in his forthcoming all-important title fight, Pompey would not commit himself. "I will do my best", was all he would say. When I asked him how he felt, he looked serious and replied, "Just as happy as any guy who has got a break".

Tough Training

His wife shares his enthusiasm for the game, and is present at all his matches. Having just celebrated their first wedding anniversary they haven't begun a family yet. There was a twinkle in Mrs. Pompey's eyes when the subject was mentioned, which seems to indicate that they are looking forward to a family sometime. Mrs. Pompey will be celebrating her husband's birthday on April 22, and what better event to enliven this celebration than a win over Moore?

Pompey is now doing a tough schedule of training at his camp at Devizies in the midlands. He is taking no chances and will train seriously for the four weeks preceding the fight.

Win or loose, Pompey remains one of the best light heavy boxers in the world, and his rise to fame will remain one of the brightest chapters in West Indies Sporting history.

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ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE!

WEST INDIES CRICKETERS IN NEW ZEALAND

THE EDITORIAL BOARD ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT CATHERINE EICHELBAUM, THE SPORTSWOMAN AND HOCKEY PLAYER, WILL COVER THE WEST INDIAN TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND, 1956, EXCLUSIVELY FOR "CARIBBEAN NEWS." Because we are a "monthly", Miss Eichelbaum's reports will bring you additional personal background, which breathes life into the cold facts and figures that inevitably arise from a cricket tour.

Wellington; N.Z., 23/1/56.

"The West Indian cricket team has started their tour in Auckland, and will play their first game here in Wellington on February 10th, 11th, and 13th.

Brighter Cricket

"It seems that your players have much the same outlook as our's have—THEY ENJOY THE GAME! Your Captain, Denis Atkinson, when told that the New Zealanders' friendly approach to the game has been criticised, said:

> "It should not be held against your players, I don't say I don't try to win, I am sure that all teams try to win, but the attitude of your players should not be held against them."

"Yes, the teams have a similar approach. From the spectators' side, this will make for a good game. Wellingtonians are looking forward to the matches to be played here. Last time your team visited 'down under', they were really popular, because of the fast game for which you have now become world famous. From all signs, West Indians are going to have bumper crowds this time too."

For the Record

1st Match: W.I. versus N.Z. "scratch 11." W.I. WON by an innings and 51 runs. W.I. 223 runs ALL OUT (Binne 74). N.Z. 82 runs and 90 runs (Valentine 4 wickets for 22).

2nd Match: W.I. versus a **Canterbury 11** at CHRISTCHURCH. Match DRAWN. W.I. 357 runs ALL OUT. Canterbury 11; 227 runs and 25 runs for NO WICKETS.

3rd Match: W.I. versus SOUTHLANDS. SOUTHLANDS 139 runs ALL OUT. W.I. 131 for 8 wickets. "Fifteen wickets fell on the first of the two-day match for 32 runs."

New Year Honours

FOR service in the West Indies, the following were honoured by the Queen in the New Year Honours List:

Knights Bachelor: John Edward Dostin Carberry, Jamaica.

C.M.G.: Francis Derick Jakeway, O.B.E., Chief Secretary, British Guiana.

John Stanely Mordecai, executive secretary, Regional Economic Committee for the West Indies.

C.B.E.: E. M. Boland, lately Puisne Judge, British Guiana; T. E. Sealey, Editor "Daily Gleaner," Jamaica.

O.B.E.: D. Chadee (for public service in Trinidad); C.S. Cree, Conservator of Forests, British Honduras.

This is the statement issued by the Executive of the PEOPLE'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT on January 15th, 1956.

The P.F.M. was formed last year as a political party offering Jamaicans an alternative to Bustamente-Manley politics. Its program provides for far-reaching social and economic reforms.

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CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

April-May 1956

FEDERATION TALKS END WITH POOR RESULTS

THE greatly heralded Conference on Caribbean Federation has ended on a note of anti-climax. Not that great things were expected of it, as its scope was limited beforehand to acceptance in its main points to the Rance proposals which had been accepted in 1953.

Federal elections are being planned for 1958 and the British Government, which held the reins at the Conference, had its way by emphasizing the need for "small beginnings."

Commissions are being set up to look into Trade in the area, and federal elections.

One of the praiseworthy decisions emerging from the Conference was that to declare February 23rd an annual national holiday for the British-ruled Caribbean. This should be of advantage in instilling in the minds of West Indians the unity of Jamaicans, Guianese, Vincentians, Trinidadians, Barbadians, and other people of the Caribbean.

Full reports are not yet available, for the sessions were held in secret, but hints of squabbles over the Capital and other matters have been rumoured.

It was also reported that Mr. Manley, of Jamaica, pressed for greater measures of independence for the Federation, but apparently has not been very successful.

'Jamaica Times' Attacks

From DUDLEY MITCHELL

Kingston: 3/56: The weekly newspaper here with the largest circulation, the "Jamaica Times" has viciously attacked the people, civil liberties and above all the Peoples' Freedom Movement.

The Editorial of March 10th, under the caption "Freedom Movement" called for the suppression of the PFM on the grounds that they are a 'known communist organisation,' and also opposed to the type of federation which the British Government is so anxious to force upon the West Indian people in the interest of imperialism. The Editor claimed that the now famous article the GREAT AUCTION SALE which appeared in 'Freedom Newsletter' on March 2nd, which is being continued, was telling the people that the "London Federation Conference was a sell out."

The PFM is supporting a number of progressive candidates in the coming Municipal and Parochial elections and therefore it is appropriate to re-state the policy of the Movement, not only in respect of federation but the social and economic welfare of the island.

ANTI-FOREIGN RULE

The policy of the PFM has always been and remains opposed to the type of federation that Manley and the Peoples' National Party accepted in London at the bidding of the Colonial Office. Manley himself was not carrying out his election promise when he accepted a Crown colony Federation without Dominion status. In the PNP 'Plan for Progress', it is clearly stated that the Party's support for federation was only WITH dominion status. How now this sudden change?

The Editor of course did not explain what was responsible for this new attitude of the PNP towards the Colonal Office sponsored Federation.

NO DEMAND WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

The Peoples' Freedom Movement demands *full self-*

continued on page 2

Mr. Norman Manley (centre) led Jamaica's delegation at the London Conference

Photo by Rudy David

Dominica has doubts on economic benefits

By D. JOSEPH, Secretary, Dominica Trade Union

THE matter of Federal Government having been already decided for implementation, we as labour representatives can just express our opinion.

With the principle of federation I am totally in favour. To federate is to combine or to form many into one, which is basically the motto of our organisation. In this particular instance, however, one has to examine critically the advantages and disadvantages if any.

One factor that has to be taken into account is 'FRATERNITY'. There must exist that fraternal spirit among the authoritative parties in the territories concerned which will create closer association in reality.

Further to this, there need be incorporation of views, that is, the invitation and acceptance of suggestions from the rank and file by the authorities, from which the inhabitants of the respective territories could gauge the results.

Another factor is 'UNIFORMITY'. This signifies the necessity for planning in advance to prove how much the various territories can cope together, and the unanimity to bring about the general development of the area. Had this been done, a profitable end would have already been confidently anticipated.

Having made those general statements, I have a feeling that Federation, as concived of at present, would not benefit us economically.

There exists the danger that the smaller and more underdeveloped islands would suffer at the expense of the

continued on page 5

Planned Production Essential

— *CHEDDI JAGAN*

TEN million dollars for Federal Headquarters, about $10 million for an annual budget, $40,800 per annum for the Governor General, $13,440 for the Prime Minister and at least $9,600 for each member of the Federal Legislature—quite a formidable financial commitment.

As expected, nothing substantially different from the Rance Proposals emerged at the end of the London talks in February. More or less the same influences (personnel, ideology) operates now as in 1948.

By postponing the Trinidad elections the Colonial

continued on page 3

TRINIDAD LOCAL ELECTIONS

THE results of the County Council elections on February 20 showed that over 70 per cent. of the elctorate went to the polls. Most candidates were supported by possible contestants for legislative Council general elections which are likely to be held in September, 1956. Only 47 per cent. of the electorate voted in the last elections.

Most of the candidates were Independents. The party, led by Dr. Williams, the Peoples' National Movement, decided not to participate in the County Council elections and expelled two members, one a member of its general Council who defied the decision. The POPPG (Conservative) officially supported seven candidates and won three seats. The Butler Party candidates are not properly known officially, but in the oil belt one of their candidates topped the poll overall with over 6,000 votes. That candidate is likely to fight Hon. Ajodasingh in the elections. He polled more votes than Ajodasingh polled in the 1950 elections.

Hon Bhadase Maraj who supported a few (number not known) candidates originally stated that he expected "90 per cent. success". But now states he gained "50 per cent. success." It is perhaps more correct to state that he gained about 40 per cent. Some of the people he claimed to support have disclaimed all knowledge of this.

The W.I.I.P.-U.L.T.A. candidates were four and two party supported candidates. Of the four candidates three lost their deposits. The other came 4th in his ward. One Party supported candidate in Charma Ward won his seat and the other came third.

For the most part the W.I.I.P-U.L.T.A. candidates were hampered by lack of finance, transportation. Of the votes won in three constituencies where candidates lost there were no cars available to take voters to polls on polling day. Voting was determined largely by a combination of fiancial and racial considerations. County Council elections are held on the basis of Universal adult suffrage.

While the elections cannot properly indicate how the wind is blowing for the general elections owing to the fact that the PNM did not participate and Butler was not personally present to campaign on behalf of candidates, indications are that Dr. Williams should win the largest group of seats followed by Maraj, who intends to launch his party to be called the Peoples Democratic Party, and Butler who ought to win a few seats. The chances of the West Indian Independence Party, Independent Labour Party and Trinidad Labour Party appear very slim. The I.L.P. is now virtually dead and it is rumoured that the T.U.C. leadership intend to launch a new party based on the T.U.C.

★ EDITORIAL ★

West Indians as Trade Unionists

ALMOST every week more of our fellow West Indians are arriving in Britain in search of jobs. To most of them, they face a strange, new environment, not only with respect to climate, but also to a certain extent customs manners and food.

As a Guianese who had arrived three months ago put it, " I've learned to drink just tea by itself now." A very small point, perhaps, but shows how our people are adapting themselves to their new surroundings; and it is well to know how easily West Indians adapt themselves in Britain—even the climate.

There is, however, one matter that merits serious consideration, and that is how we fit ourselves in with the British Labour movement. This includes membership in trade unions, relations with work-mates, and so on.

This paper has always urged West Indians to join their trade unions. Why is this such an important matter?

Every West Indian arriving in Britain will sooner or later become aware of the colour bar, when he looks for work or a place to live, and may even find prejudice among some of his white work-mates.

Good protection

Trade union membership is a good protection against victimisation, and at the same time it is an indication to white workers that coloured workers are not prepared to undercut their rates with cheap labour—thus helping to break down prejudice.

But the colour bar is not the only or main reason for being good active trade unionists. For, the principles and practices of trade unionism have grown up, been brought into being by the working class of every country to defend their interests against exploitation by the bosses.

In Britain, because of the longer period of historical development, trade unionism is more developed than in the West Indies.

It is therefore essential that we make an effort to learn more about our union and its activities, once we have joined, and attend union meetings regularly.

Some workers feel that by merely joining a union and paying dues, that is all. But it is indeed only the bare minimum, and West Indians have an interest in taking pride in attending union meetings and taking part in discussions whenever possible.

Build confidence

Speakers from the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) have during the past year been giving talks to various trade union branches—railway, engineering, etc., —on the subject of coloured workers in Britain.

British trade unionists frequently ask why their West Indian brothers do not come along to the meetings, and suggest that this is one of the reasons why the best feelings of friendship and confidence are sometimes not built up.

It can be seen therefore that West Indians have a job to do, of consciously striving to build confidence with their white brothers through their actions and by mixing with the white workers whenever possible.

Let is not be said, as is frequently said now, that coloured workers separate themselves from their work-mates and erect a colour bar in reverse.

Patient explanation

Through several generations of propaganda, many British people have accepted the ruling class lies about coloured people, and are consequently prejudiced.

It is quite possible to destroy this prejudice, but it will not come automatically. Much will depend on how we West Indians conduct ourselves in the labour movement and generally.

We have to be patient in explaining to the British worker about ourselves and backward conditions in our exploited country. Most of this he does not know, and who is going to enlighten him if we don't.

An English worker, a trade unionist himself, has given his views in a letter published on this page.

We want to hear from readers their own experiences and ideas which will help in building a strong bridge between black and white.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

Barbadians Want Civil Rights Guarantee

From Carlton Gill,
Secretary, Caribbean People,s Alliance

WE in Barbados are opposed to " Federation at any price." We need not only Federation, but we need the right to determine our own future.

Just to be one big Federated Crown Colony is no advantage to us but to the Imperialists.

1. Many attacks are being made upon the liberties of our people, and I think it very farcical for some of our so-called leaders to be demanding Federation without a Guarantee of Protection for Civic Rights and Liberties.

Mail is tampered with, even confiscated, and other things too numerous to mention go on down here and yet people are expected to shout themselves hoarse in honour of a system that deprives them of their freedom and strangles their growth both economically and politically.

Constitutional safeguards

In an Open Letter to Conference Delegates I have set out some of the points that we wanted to see in the Federation. These provisions were:

1. That the Federal Constitution should as part of its Constitutional Conventions have the right of recall of a member or members of the Federal House of Representatives, particularly in order to guarantee respect for the peoples' mandate.
2. That the Federal Constitution should have the right on the part of the constituent units of the Federation, to secede therefrom.
3. That the Federal Constitution should provide Constitutional Guarantees for the protection of minority and other Cultural interests.
4. That Complete Freedom of Movement be guaranteed to all people born and residing in these parts.
5. That the Conference reject the Principle of Dual Ministries as well as the right of persons to be members at the same time of both Local and Fedeal Legislatures.
6. That the Federal Constitution should provide for the exclusive right of the Federation to amend its Constitution.
7. That the Federal acceptance of any Federal Constitution should be submitted to the people by way of a Referendum.

This open letter was sent to the press, but so far only TRUTH, a weekly newspaper, has printed it. The big papers often try to ignore us by not mentioning us or our stand on any question.

The white people in Barbados are playing a funny game. They are fundamentally opposed to Federation because they are afraid of being swamped as a racial minority. Yet Cuke, their mouthpiece, is one of Barbados' delegates at the London Conference.

Cuke is a nominated member and President of the Legislative Council—the local 'House of Lords'.

Another tactic is for politicians to ignore the main points of Federation, while only glittering before the peoples' eyes the chance of Barbados becoming the Federal capital. This is another colonial trick to make you catch at the shadow while losing the substance.

And for true West Indians the Substance of Federation will be internal self-government for all the Federal units with the right of the Federation to become a free and independent nation.

JAMAICA TIMES

from page 1

government NOW for Jamaica, and the other West Indian territories with the people to decide by referendum, if and how we federate! This is emphasised as the only sensible and democratic form of federation. It is strange that for being consistent the TIMES advocates the suppression of the movement.

The 'Times' stated that the PFM were campaigning without interference, but this is not altogether true. The PFM argue from their platforms that where there is no struggle there is no progress, and despite the many barriers that have been put in their way by the enemies of the people, the Mobement will continue to lead the of the people to national independence and a better way of life.

It is remarkable that the Jamaica Times has now realised that the PEOPLES' FREEDOM MOVEMENT is under trained and intelligent leadership This is what the PFM have themselves been telling the whole country since formation on May 1st, 1955.

The Movement is national in character, uniting not only communists, but all elements in the country opposed to imperialist robbery and exploitation of our country. On this issue, they declare that there will be no compromise, whether the JAMAICA TIMES or any other capitalist organ attack them for being consistent.

Latest: The PNP won majority in parochial elections.

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POST-BOX

Our victims within our industry

Dear Editor:

The following comments upon the entry of West Indians to the industrial life of this country are not entirely personal but reflect opinions gleaned from contacts with a number of fellow workers.

The most common reaction from such contacts was " That provided the West Indians do not put an Englishman out of a job, well, it's alright for them to work here."

The next person would go a little further and say: "That provided it does not prejudice our bargaining power with the employers for better rates and conditions well, it's alright for them to come here."

Some, influenced perhaps, by a bad type or indeed by complete ignorance say they should be sent home.

A few, however, who mainly aspire for Socialism see the issue as a much larger one than as mentioned above.

They believe that socialism introduced to this country is an answer, as such should support all workers in all parts of the British Empire in organising Trade Unions and political parties in order to further their interests, and support the right of all peoples to self determination, including the right to choose complete separation from the Empire.

These aims which were a resolve of the 1925 Trade Union Congress, now find little expression from the present leaders of the British workers Parliament.

However, if facts of colonial exploitation can reach the workers, no doubt, as in 1925, right will find support and with the increased strength now of our own labour movement coupled with the progress made by many within the colonies the Goal of Self-determination and planning in the interest of those within their own land will be won.

At present for practical purposes it is essential that those West Indians working within our industries should endeavour to be of exemplary character, not only at work but in recreational and cultural activities too.

This will enable contact with those workers who read only reactionary organs or who possess somewhat illusionary views of the reason for our colonial brothers coming here.

From these contacts could develop the ingredients to defeat suppression within the colonies and then the West Indian in Britain or the Briton in the West Indies will be a fraternal and helpful exchange between workers.

Such too will mean that world peace will be a reality with the world's workers exchanging ideas, etc. to make it a much happier and cultured place.

PERCY MAY
(Electrician, South Harrow E.T.U.)

From time to time we propose to discuss the novels and books dealing witth the Caribbean scene published during the last ten years. We begin with two novels on Trinidad.

Crown Jewel

by RALPH DE BOISSIERE

IT is not intended to give here a detailed, critical analysis of Ralph de Boissiere's novel, Crown Jewel, though it is a work which merits such treatment. What is mainly intended here is to bring it to the notice of those who have not read it, and if possible to encourage others who have to read it again.

A novel about Trinidad life during the 1930s, is deals with, among other things, the great strike and unrest of 1937 which, beginning among the oil-workers of Fyzabad (to whom the book is partly dedicated), soon became island wide and later spread to other islands of the Caribbean. As a novel depicting the Trinidad scene in all its complexity it is outstanding; for it shows the people striving to organise, to unite in order to lift themselves out of the swamp in which years of exploitation have kept them, and what is more, confident that they can do so.

The author does not write "dispassionately" or "with detachment" of his Trinidad and its people as is the fashion with some authors from the Caribbean. Nor does he sneer at and look down his nose at the people and things Trinidadian. He writes with respect and admiration for the peoples' efforts, with genuine feeling, deep understanding, honesty, pride and hope in his people and country.

★

This intelligent outlook, his love for and knowledge of his native land enable him to face up boldly, fearlessly to the problems of Trinidad and to believe in the possibility of their solution Thus, his scenes and characters are powerfully and convincingly drawn. His Cassie Walcott, the servant girl is unforgetable. Le Maitre, the working class leader, though he could have been a better developed character, is convincing.

The pompous English Judge Osborne, the influential English Oilfields and Sugar Estates managers, the self seeking dtmagogic politician, Joe Elias, the courageous trade unionist Clem Payne and others are all living characters whose counterparts in the everyday Trinidad scene we know well.

CROWN JEWEL is not faultless, but is very satisfying and stimulating and for being so it is unique among novels portraying Trinidad life. We are indeed deeply grateful to Ralph de Boissiere for having given it to us.

(Published in Australia, copies are available at Collets, Ltd., 66, Charing Cross Road, W.C.2).

DAVE

A Brighter Sun

By Samuel Selvon

WE have plodded wearily through Mr. Samuel Selvon's " A Brighter Sun ". On several occasions we were on the point of giving up, but persevered hoping against hope that three or four pages further on our patience would have been rewarded. But such was not to be our luck.

The theme of this novel concerns Tiger, a Trinidadian of East Indian descent, a peasant, eking a living from a small garden in Barataria. He has a strong desire to learn to read and write, and to get on in the world and make money. His adventures make up roughly half the book; the other half is occupied with the story of the building of the Churchill - Roosevelt highway, and the sundry adventures of various other characters, Negro and of East Indian descent.

On the face of it fascinating material to turn into a highly readable, honest and entertaining piece of work. But look what Selvon makes of it.

His hero, Tiger, is a social climber, with an outsize respect for North Americans and Englishmen. He has no respect for his own Indian customs when those customs conflict with his social ambitions. One of his greatest desires is achieved when he plays host to two North Americans working on the Churchill-Roosevelt highway.

★

Incidentally, these U.S. engineers contemptuously refer to him as "boy" and he addresses them as "Chief."

Most of his other characters are debased, demoralised and shiftless. Even then they are by no means typical of the sub-class they are ignorantly purported to represent.

For example, we learn with surprise that the women of Barataria were all crazy over the Yanks, and anxious to go to bed with them. A private school teacher spends her spare time soliciting G.I.s.

As far as form and style are concerned, both are strangers to Mr. Selvon. His phrasing is atrocious. His punctuation indifferent. The writing thin, and careless. Nearly every chapter begins in the same fashion. He relates a number of trivial events totally usconnected with the story and then goes on to superimpose the rest of this chapter on to this background.

★

He devotes the whole of chapter four to one minor character, the Chinese shopkeeper, Tall Boy. We get in great detail flashbacks in the life of this character, and a description of San Fernando which has absolutely no bearing on the story. For the rest of the novel, Tall Boy only appears when he sells some small articles to Tiger's wife, Urmilla.

This novel has no climax, nor is there any build up to a climatic scene. It is a bad novel. The only point under discussion is how bad. It is a disgusting novel, a slanderous attrack on our peasantry, our women folk, and our progressive movement and elected institutions.

But the very yretchedness of the novel gives us heart. Such an untalented work will never deceive anyone in our country.

After all, no Trinidadian could stand being called "native" by a man who is himself a "native."

We hope Mr. Selvon's next novel is better and shall examine it later.

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Theatre

The Wit of Jean-Paul Sartre

UNITY THEATRE (Goldington Strret, N.W.1) is still performing to packed houses its presentation of " NEKRASSOV " by Jean Paul Sartre, one of France's leading playwrights and an active member of the World Peace Movement.

The play is about a small town crook, who fleeing from the police, attempts to drown himself in the Seine, but is fished out by a down-and-out couple. Chance later throws him Sibelot, a journalist who is in danger of losing his job, having run out of ideas for anti-Soviet stories.

The clever crook poses as Nekrassov, a high official of the Soviet Government whom rumour has it, has fled to the West. The crook thus escapes the police and the despairing journalist has his anti-Soviet stories made to order.

The dirty little plot fails, but only after Sartre shows what dupes a credulous public accustomed to believing even the most baseless anti-Soviet stories can be, and how shameless and unscrupulous the press lords are. The dialogue sparkles with Sartre's brilliant, incisive wit. The theatregoer will be doing himself a great injustice if he fails to see Unity's excellent performance.

DAVE

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

from page 1

Office made certain that the same reactionary clique was represented.

Mr. Manley, shrewd politician that he is, recognising the temper of the people, has called for a federal constitution more nearly resembling a self-governing constitution.

1956 is a far way from 1947 when Manley as Vice-President, and Grantley Adams as President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, were demanding "Federation with Dominion status and internal self-government for each unit."

The imperialists carefully noted the successful pressure exerted by Mr. Manley on the Jamaica T.U.C., forcing the latter to withdraw from the W.F.T.U. (after the formation of I.C.F.T.U.) and the subsequent expulsion of the so-called 'Reds' from the Peoples' National Party, not to mention his congratulations to the British Government for the destruction of the P.P.P. Government in British Guiana.

CHEDDI JAGAN

Leader of P P P Guiana

Official attitude in British Guiana, no doubt reflecting Colonial Office views, can be cited as illustrating Manley's political somersaulting.

Up to 1949, when the PNP of Jamacia was the leader and guide of the progressive political movements in the Caribbean, Guianese officialdom, supported by the Chamber of Commerce and King Sugar, *was opposed to federation.*

These same interests, noting the changed Manley and the fact that Manley and Adams will undoubtedly emerge as leaders of the Federation, are today the most active supporters of Guianese participation in the Caribbean Federation.

Unbalanced Economy

Let us now look at the economic side. Dr. Daniel Newmark, F.A.O. Agricultural Economist, writing in 1950 on " The Importance of Agriculture in Caribbean Economy with Reference to the World Market " said:

> 'One of the main characteristics of the territorial export trade in the Caribbean is its dependence on a small number of products, a dependence typical of economically under-developed areas, while the import requirements of each territory are characterised by a very wide range of foodstuffs, raw materials and manufactured articles."

Dr. Newmark then went on to suggest that to overcome these short-comings there should be overall planned production for the whole area, with specialisation in each territory. He cited Grenada:

> " Grenada is a case in point. The area under sugar in Grenada amounts to 308 acres (125 hectares) with an average production of 17.21 tons of cane per acre. It is surprising that Grenada should insist on growing its own sugar under protection (against imports from other West Indian territories and at the expense of the consumer and taxpayer as it were) when it can import sugar more cheaply from Barbados, St. Lucia or Trinidad. Whatever were the reasons in the past for supporting sugar production in Grenada, there is very little economic justification now for maintaining this industry at the expense of the consumer and taxpayer. Grenada could utilise its acres at present under sugar for growing more cocoa or nutmegs, or for growing fodder crops for livestock."

He continues:

> " In many cases (as in Martinique and Guadeloupe) the cultivation of bananas and pineapples has proved a solution. A possible solution to the hillside lands, i.e., the marginal sugar cane lands, has been found in the planting of permanent tree crops, such as cocoa, coconuts and nutmegs. Some of the tree crops could be combinerd with grazing and/or cultivated fodder crops."

Dr. Newmark's report was not very well received by sugar interests who want the maintenance of the status quo.

Prospects not Bright

Any forecast of economic prospects will therefore have to take into consideration the will of the federal leaders and the political limitations within which they will have to function.

With the political somersaulting of Manley and Adams, and the fact that the Colonial Office and the Sugar Lords are prepared to let them rule, it would appear that the economic prospects of the Federation are not very bright.

STUDENTS URGE STRONG GOVERNMENT

WEST INDIAN students took a bold step on the eve of Federation talks. At a meeting held at their Student Centre in London to which delegates to the talks were specially invited, they presented their views on Federation in no uncertain manner.

In the words of the President of the Student body it was not often that an opportunity arose for leaders to sit at the feet of students. And the students surely took advantage of the opportunity.

After pointing out that the student body itself was an experiment in Federation, since it embraced students from most of the countries of the Caribbean, they went on to urge the delegates to press for strong Federal Government.

The students, however, made it clear that they regretted certain aspects of the Federation proposals. They could not, for instance, see the need for super checks and balances for which the nominated State Council was envisaged, while there was to be a nominated Senate of 19 members and the Governor General possessed absolute powers.

They thought the only way to make Federation a reality despite its emasculated form was full, unlimited powers to the Federal Government.

TRINIDAD TUC AGAINST CROWN COLONY STATUS FOR FEDERATION

THE TUC (Trinidad) protested strongly to Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lennox Boyd, against what is described as the Crown Colony status of the proposed Federation. This they thought was not in keeping with the aspirations of the working people of Trinidad.

The TUC also urged that in view of Trinidad's strong financial position steps be taken to implement a Social Insurance scheme on the lines of that operative in the United Kingdom.

JAMAICA

BIG BUSINESS OPPOSE BRITISH PLAN

THE Daily Gleaner, organ of Big Business, has come out strongly against the British-imposed Federation.

And the Gleaner writers have had a field day attacking the Caribbean delegates to the Conference. There was no one at Lancaster House to speak for the West Indies, lamented the Gleaner. The delegates were more concerned with flattering Lennox Boyd than anything else.

Another columnist wrote scathingly of how the delegates spent their time running from hotel bedroom to hotel bedroom, discussing the all imporant subject of the site of the Federal capital, and wringing their hands in ismay at some imagined difficulty.

Would the value of land round and about the Federal capital rise in value? Would they get a sufficiently big loan from the British Government?

The Gleaner contrasted this schoolboyish behaviour with the statesmanlike attitude of the Malayan delegates at the recent conference in London.

One of the Gleaner editorials put the cse bluntly. We are for Federation, writes the Gleaner in effect. But not Fderation at any price. Our job is to see that Jamaica is developed economically and socially and Federation is a means to that end.

But this British-imposed Federation does not benefit Jamaica. Under it we cannot work out our national destiny. Under it, we fear, Jamaica may find herself dictated to by a coalition of the smaller islands.

Federation, or rather, the Super Crown Colony which the British are creating in the Caribbean would not permit Jamaica to develop her own resources, and quite definitely is inimical to her national interests.

A POISONOUS BILL

RECENTLY a bill entitled " The undesirable publications (Prohibition of Importation) Ordinance " was introduced into the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. In introducing it, the Attorney General stated, in very modest terms, the Government's reason for the Bill.

" The existing law relating to the prohibition of importation of publications which it is not in the public interest to allow to be imported into the Colony is very limited in scope. It gives the Governor absolutes, power to prohibit the importation of anything which comes under publications as described in the Bill.

In the words of the Bill publication includes all written or printed matter. Anything whether of a nature similar to written or printed matter, or not, containing any visible representation capable of suggesting words or ideas by its form or shape, or in any other manner.

Further Sec. 3 of the bill states: " If an order made under the provisions of Sub. sec. 1 of this section specifies by name a publication which is a periodical publication, such order shall, unless a contrary intention be expressed therein, have effect. (a) not only with respect to all issues of such publication published before the date of the order but also with respect to all issues of such publication published on or after such date, and (b) not only with respect to any publication under that name but also with respect to any publication published under any other name or without a name if the publishing thereof is or may reasonably be regarded as being in any respect in continuation of or in substitution for, the publishing of the publication named in the order."

Crude Censorship

Under the guise of preventing the importation of 'undesirable' publications, the Bill is in fact a crude attempt to impose a general censorship on what people may read, and the power to do this rests in the hands of the governor. This surely is a denial of a fundamental human right, the right to acquire information. This bill therefore, must be recognised for what it is, an attempt to isolate the people of Trinidad and Tobago from the incidents taking place throughout the world, and especially the anti-colonial struggle which is being waged with such determination throughout the world at the present time.

It is worth noting that this paper, Caribbean News, harmless as it is, has been banned outright by the Colonial administrators there. And should this bill become law and we were to print or publish a popular edition of the Holy Bible, that too would be banned. The CIC is therefore more than justified in submitting a strong resolution of this bill to the National Council of Civil Liberties for discussion at its Annual Conference. All decent, honest people should protest most vigorously to the British Government against the bill.

Guiana Dictators Give Blessing To Co-op

CONTINUING its efforts to win the faith of the Guianese people, the Government Dictatorship of Guiana recently gave its blessing to the Co-operative movement. Governor Renison pointed out that his 'government' was quite keen on the development of Agricultural Co-operatives. And in his own words there are 515 Co-ops with a membership of over 20,000 and with assets of over 400,000 dollars (B.W.I.).

In the C.L.C.'s survey "Sugar, the Story of a Colony" Booker Bros., MacConnell and Co., Davson and Co., and Demerara Co., Ltd., are stated as owning 34,519 acres but have at their disposal 63,052 acres.

Governor Renison however, tells the Guianese people that more and more Co-ops are needed, but as to how they are to get hold of the lands held by the above mentioned companies they are not told.

No, Governor Renison, only the legally elected representatives of the Guianese people would tell them that. And we are sure there are many co-operators who would tell you to reinstate the Elected Government of Guiana.

Whither Trinidad's New Party

THE People's National Movement, organised and led by Dr. Williams is expected to do well in the coming elections.

The Party has come out against the British imposed Federation. And in domestic affairs it has demanded industrialisation and more jobs for the unemployed.

But the party is under serious attack on the grounds that its programme is demagogic and its leading personalities are reactionaries, who use radical and nationalist phrases in order to deceive the massies.

Clarion, a Labour organ, wrote in a recent issue of what it described as Eric Williams' People's National Movement . . ."

"The Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd., which supports the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and the Party of Political Progress Groups, has now thrown in its lot with Eric Williams' People's National Mobement . . . "

Dr. Williams had "tried to sell the reactionary London proposals" up to the time of his departure from the Caribbean Commission."

"Williams was a reactionary up to yesterday, and . . . it is only since he has been thrown out of the Caribbean Commission that he has overnight become the Radical he wished people to believe that he is."

"So it is not at all surprising that the Chairman of Williams' Party is a member of the Senior Staff of the T.L.L."

The chairman in question is cricketer Leary Constantine.

Barbados Hurricane Victims

The Chief Secretary told the Legislative Council recently that up to January 4th, a total of 11,526 houses damaged by the hurricane had been repaired. But several thousand more houses remained to be repaired.

Banana Price Drop

The price of Jamaican bananas has fallen again. The 'Greenboat" price has dropped by 48 dols. (£10). Last April the "Greenboat" price was 386.40 dols. (£80 10s.). The price today is 290.40 dols. (£60 10s.).

St. Vincent workers shut down sugar industry

ALL the North Windward areas are out on total strike (writes E. T. Joshua) for the acknowledgment of trade union rights, trade union representation, production of the Malone Report, and for higher wages.

Sunday, March 11th: The factory workers of Mt. Bentinck joined the cane cutters and the whole Tory-owned industry went on total strike until the demands are met.

In the area of Orange Hill Estates Ltd., the workers struck for higher wages and the wheels of this industry came to a standstill on 5th March.

Other estates affected are Mt. William owned by William Hadley Gorse, and Calonarie, owned by a Portuguese called Alban Da Santos, the Third Nominated Member of the Legislative Council.

The strikes are developing to island-wide proportions in all work and trade. Even the teachers and other skilled workers are preparing a show-down.

Immigrants complain of bad treatment

WHEN a party of immigrants from Trinidad and some of the other Caribbean countries arrived at Victoria Station they protested strongly about the manner in which they were treated while in transit. The ship involved was the T.U. Lucania, an Italian boat and its agents in Trinidad, the Atlas Shipping Co.

The food was, in the words of most of the immigrants, horrible even for dogs. The berths were crowded, and washing facilities poor.

On arriving at Genoa their baggage was taken from them and they were herded into poorly heated trains and sped across the European continent, to find, on arriving at Victoria, that they could not recover their baggage under 72 hours. For all this inconvenience they had to pay some £66 to the shipping company.

A written protest, signed by some of the immigrants was handed to British Council officials on the spot.

It was unfortunate however, that this protest did not state what was uppermost in the minds of many of the immigrants namely that if the British were to end the hated system of colonialism, withdraw their officials from these countries, they would not have been arriving on these shores on that cold March evening.

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Malayan Constitution Meets Disapproval

GROWING opposition to the acceptance by Tengku Rahman, newly-elected Malayan Chief Minister of the British government's offer of a new constitution is gaining momentum in that stronghold of British Imperialism.

The Malayan Labour Party has challenged the validity of Tengku Rahman's claim of having gained control over internal security whilst the British Director of Operations remained in operational command. The Executive Committee of the Selangor state branch of the Labour Party issued a statement on February 18, which among other points, opposed the Conference decision to involve Malaya in SEATO, the stationing of any foreign troops on Malayan soil, the continued subjection of Malaya's foreign policy to that of a foreign power, and the entrusting of the question of Malaya's independence to a constitutional commission appointed by foreigners.

INDEPENDENCE—NOT REAL

The General Secretary of the Malayan Trade Union Council, Mr. Thaver, criticised the London Conference for failing to bring the eight year war to an end. He urged that the war should be peacefully settled forthwith, and in order that this could be achieved, he said, legal recognition should be accorded to the Malayan Communist Party.

A newly foremed movement, the People's Party (Partai Ra'ayaat) stated that so long as foreign troops remained on Malayan soil any talk of 'independence' could not be real.

SUPPORT LACKING

Meanwhile in his tour of the country Tengku Rahman is finding support lacking in his "all out mobilisation against the Communists" The fact that 700 tons of bombs were dropped in one raid the day the delegation returned to Malaya has considerably hardened Malayan opinion against the British Government and its collaborators.

Asian Press too have poured criticisms on the London agreement. A typical comment is that appearing in the leading Bengali paper, AMRITA PATRIKA:

"The present political leaders of Malaya are prepared to remain satisfied with the shadow of independence. If they really wanted independence they would never have agreed to commit their country to provide shelter and facilities for British troops ,whose numbers are left indefinite to suit British convenience."

While these verdicts are being pronounced, the real "patriots" of Malaya are fighting it out in the jungle.

PROFITS INCREASE

British Investments in Malaya's rubber are estimated at £100 million, and in tin about £50 million. In 1955 sale of Malayan rubber to dollar countries yielded 125 million dollars and that of Malayan tin 100 million dols.

Beginning in this issue CARIBBEAN NEWS will highlight events from topical countries with problems akin of those in the West Indies. ... ...
Our first is compiled by

ERIC DESLANDES

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN DEMAND . . .

End Group Areas Act

One day that will be remembered in South Africa for years to come will be October 26th last year. That day marked the beginning of a campaign organised by South African Women in protest against that country's opressive treatment of the coloured population.

The Mothers' Congress stated that in spite of all the difficulties—racial, etc., 2,000 women took part in the demonstration. Dignified and determined, their babies on their backs, these women had come from tens of miles away, some of them on foot. Ninety per cent. of them had never been in Pretoria before. The police tried all sorts of tactics to stop the demonstration. The women were forbidden to hold the planned meeting and procession.

The Government refused to receive the representatives of the women. At the last minute the transport services refused to grant buses. The railways refused to give special cars and the employees of some stations even refused to sell them tickets. Cars were stopped on the roads leading to Pretoria, taxis forbidden to take women and a great number of women were held in police stations.

continued top of column 2

But they persevered. For several hours there were a steady flow of women making their way to government house. Each woman placed her protest on the threshold there, then went back to the amphitheatre.

Strijdom outraged

They protested again identity cards for the African, the Lae on the Teaching of the Bantus (nearly all native-managed schools have now been closed); the Enrolment of the population, the law on the deportation of Africans to special zones (Group Areas Act); the law on the repression of Communiism, the law on Public Security and other acts of Fascist oppression.

The women were triumphant. Their action received world-wide publicity both in and outside the Union. It was also telebised. Outraged, dictator Strijdom said that it was "scandalous" that the women were allowed to enter the House of Government.

Twelve Hours Work for 2/-

CYPRIOTS of Greek and Turkish origin staged a mammoth demonstration in Nicosia recently to intensify the fight for improving living standards for women in all sections of industry.

Years of imperialist exploitation and neglect inherited by these hard-working people is reflected in the colony's worsening slum conditions, lack of adequate educational facilities and a poor standard of living generally.

Despite the difficult conditions and terror brought about by British troops, over 1,000 delegates crowded into the great conference of women workers organised by the Pacyprian Federation of Labour, an affiliate of the W.F.T.U., as part of the preparations for the World Conference.

Inquiry demand

The demonstration, first of its kind to be organised by the women, brought together delegates from every trade and industry of all ages and of Greek and Turkish origin. They decided at the conference to demand:

"An immediate inquiry into the working conditions of women employed by landowners." It was pointed out that young girls had to work hard for 12 hours a day for 2s. to 3s. per day.

The conference also demand the improvement and application of social security for women workers, and respect for trade union rights.

EIGHT STUDENTS SHOT IN CARACAS

WHILE Latin-American opinion recoiled before the murder of a Venezuelan political refugee in Columbia by an agent of the Venezuelan Security, a sector of the West Indian Press has seen fit to lavish praise on the dictatorship and its chief, Colonel Perez Jimenez.

In one newspaper, the fat colonel is given full-page honours and peers most disconcertingly from a story eulogising the "peace, prosperity and progress of our neighbour."

As if to justify this touching hero-worship, news comes from Caracas of a police attack on demonstrating high school students. Eight were shot, 200 wounded, scores arrested and two high schools shut down.

This follows the arrest on landing of political exiles who had returned home under a so-called amnesty.

We await some comment from our "free and responsible" Press.

Dominica doubts

from page 1

bigger, more developed territories, and Dominica is considered the most undeveloped in the area.

This would be the case in trade, for example, if Dominica had to buy commodities from other islands to promote their industry, at higher prices than paid elsewhere at present.

Another point on which my fears are aroused is the financial position of Dominica, whose cost of living, ever rising, is the highest in the West Indies—in comparison with all-round earnings and costs in other territories; and despite notorious rates and taxes imposed, Dominica has been dependent on grants from Britain to balance her budget annually.

I see a dark future for this island if these grants are stopped, unless a solution is found in all-round integrated economic development is undertaken in the interests of the whole Federation.

Concerning the actual Conference in London, it is my view that more adequate preparation should have been made to secure agreement among the delegates themselves befor going to the Conference.

People's will

Another serious lapse was the absence of public discussion, and the lack of opportunity given for the expression of public opinion.

In our case, when we saw that in consequence of the decision taken in the House that Hon. F. A. Baron, M.L.C., would be Dominica's delegate, and that his going to Grenada to the Windward Island meeting just before his departure was likely to have him leave for England without public hearings on such an important matter, the Trade Union framed a resolution requesting him to explain to the public something to inspire or console them. As an independent member of the Legislative Council we were unaware of the scope of representation he would show.

As a result of this resolution adopted at our Anniversary meeting, on his return from Grenada a meeting was convened for suggestions and views among Legislative Council members.

In its limited extent, this meeting was to be desired, but had one been held in a form and at a place where access would be given for expression of public opinion it would have been far more satisfactory to us. For we know that in any community improved conditions depend largely on 'the pleasure of the masses.'

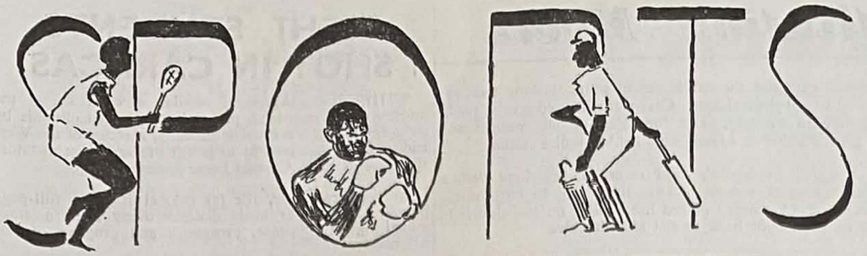
Discussing Federation

ANTIGUA
LEEWARD ISLANDS

Delegates
Hon. V. C. Bird
(right) represents
ANTIGUA
and
Hon. R. Bradshaw
(centre)
ST. KITTS

* * *

Photo by
Rudy David



WI WINS 3 IN 4 NZ TESTS

Old Stalwarts Bear Strain

TOO dependent on Weeks for runs and the Ramadhin-Valentine combination for wickets, writes our New Zealand correspondent, commenting on the three West Indian victories in the four Tests of their recent tour.

Nearly all Weekes — consistent

WITH a century in each of his first three Test innings Weekes carried the W.I. batting on his shoulders. His average for the tests is over 83. He was very consistent, and with scores of 156, 148, 123, 119 not out, 103, and 43, just missed equalling Bradman's feat of 6 centuries in a row in first class cricket.

It was 90 per cent. Weekes in the batting department, writes our correspondent, and "we loved watching him. He has used the full range of his pugnacious strokes and been the despair of fieldsmen. His stroke-making has been marked by freedom and power without abandon."

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Captained by Denis Atkinson, the W.I. team suffered their sole defeat in the last Test of the series. Playing against them was Trinidad's Simpson Guillen, now resident in New Zealand, wicket keeper in 1952. Guillen has thus become one of the very few to play "both sides," as they say in Trinidad, an international cricketer. Better, or maybe worse, he was instrumental in gaining New Zealand her first Test victory ever with three catches, a brisk 41 and the stumping of Valentine.

Instrumental in gaining the W.I. victories were the Old Stalwarts, John Goddard 1950 skipper, Ramadhin, Valentine and above all Everton Weekes, the only one of the Terrible W's to make this tour. Most of the credit for victory was theirs. True enough Bruce Pairaudeau hit up a useful 68 in the third Test, but that, by far his best performance, is far from what we expect of our opening bat.

Fast Bowlers

Our fast bowlers have not been impressive, although Jamaica's Dewdney's 5 for 21 in the last Test gives a glimmer of hope, skipper Atkinson's 7 for 55 was equally important. Sobers of Barbados and Jamaica's Smith, two young slow bowlers might have been tested a bit harder, but the whole question of the lessons of the tour and prospects for the 1957 U.K. tour will be left for a full dress debate in the next issue.

Notably with his 83 not out in the second Test, player-manager Goddard further established himself as one of the really excellent bats if not the greatest No. 7 in our cricket history. In that Test too, Valentine's 5 for 32 showed what a great slow bowler can elicit from the right wicket, a lesson for Sobers and Smith. Ramadhin's 9 for 81 in the first Test was a promise of great things to come and by the end of the series he had secured two honours. He joined Valentine to become the second W.I. bowler to capture 100 wickets in Test cricket. He is now the second W.I. to get over 400 wickets in first class cricket; Constantine still leads with 424.

As for Everton Weekes, his performance stands in a class by itself, as revealed by our correspondent's rhapsody in the picure story accompanying.

Test Scores

1st TEST: N.Z. 74 (Ramadhin 6 for 23), and 208 (Beck 66, Smith 3 for 42, Ramadhin 3 for 58); W.I. 353 (Weekes 123). W.I. won by an innings and 71 runs.

2nd TEST: W.I. 386 (Weekes 103, Atkinson 85, Goddard 83 not out); N.Z. 158 (Ramadhin 5 for 46) and 164 (Valentine 5 for 32, Smith 4 for 74). W.I. won by an innings and 64 runs.

3rd TEST: W.I. 404 (Weekes 156, Pairaudeau 68) and 14 for 1; N.Z. 208 (Beck 55) and 208 (Atkinson 5 for 66). W.I. won by 9 wickets.

4th TEST: N.Z. 255 (Reid 84, Dewdney 5 for 21) and 157 for 9 dec. (Atkinson 7 for 53); W.I. 145 (Furlonge 64, Cave 4 for 22) and 77 (Weekes 31, Cave 4 for 21). N.Z. won by 190 runs.

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U.K. ATHLETES SWEEP BOARD IN TRINIDAD GAMES

A STRONG six-man team of U.K. athletes including Trinidad-born C. Gibbs, broke four local records while W.I. contestants equalled two at the Southern Games in Trinidad last February. From B.G., Jamaica, and the Windward Islands came representatives, most outstanding of whom was Grena^{d}a's hurdler, high jumper and long jumper—William Gittens.

B. Hewson broke the local 800 metres record clocking a commendable 1 min. 51.4 sec., 2.2 sec. outside the Olympic figure. P. Driver set a new record of 15 min. 13.6 sec. in the 5,000 metres. Elliott's discus throw of 123 ft. 8 in. and his vault of 12 ft. ½ in. are the two other new figures at which W.I. athletes must aim.

In the sprints, our pet distances, E. Turton clocked 10.6 for the 100 metres, W. Jackson 21.8 in the 200, and Constable Bates 47.7 in the 400. No records were set and if we exclude R. Bravo a young sprinter who turned in 10.7 over 100 metres for Juniors, there is no runner in view to take the place that Agostini has whipped from Bailey, McKinley and Lloyd La Beach. Maybe we need a bigger Jamaican contingent to be able to judge prospects.

High Jump

In the 110 metres hurdles B.G.'s L. Taitt equalled the Trinidad record of 15.3 sec. though in the 400 metres Gittens and Benjamin tieing for first place with a time of 55.9sec. were still well outside the record. Incidentally J. Crump, veteran U.K. manager has pointed out in an interview with the local Press that there is a good deal of talent but equal need of coaching.

With a leap of 6 ft. 5 in. W. Gittens retained his high jump record for the Southern Games. L. Scipio of Trinidad cleared 6 ft. 2 in. and W. St. John, also of Granada, 6 ft. Gittens and Scipio gained high praise from H. Abrahams, AAA secretary in Britain, who figures that with a more polished style Gittens could clear 7ft. While not committing ourselves that far—the three year old world record is 6 ft. 11½ in.—undoubtedly, with proper coaching he still has some more way up to go. In this light it is gratifying to record that Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. is obtaining a coach—the next few years should show some interesting results.

— BUT TOURING XI MAY NOT

SWANTON'S XI, a strong team of Test and county cricketers from England are touring Barbados and Trinidad. Weekes, Ramadhin, Smith, and Sobers are flying from N.Z. to be in the W.I. team against the tourists, whose recent defeat at the hands of young Barbados does not presage well for this encounter. Tyson, Warr, Goonesena, and Marlar, some of the best bowlers in English cricket should test our batsmen to the full, while Cowdrey, Graveney, and young Stewart of Surrey may extend our bowlers, providing useful eye-openers for the W.I. possibles to tour the U.K. next year. Scores so far:

Barbados Schools XI, 183 for 4 dec.; Swanton's XI 191-5. 2nd game, Barbados XI, 522 for 8 dec. (Hunte 151, Marshall 100, E. Atkinson 77, Tyson 4 for 101, Goonesena 3 for 145); Swanton's XI 262 (Goonesena 62, Cowdrey 50) and 248. Barbados won by an innings and 12 runs.

SPORT FLASHES

MIKE AGOSTINI (Trinidad) clipped one-tenth second off the world 220 yard sprint record with a time of 20.1 seconds, in California, U.S.A.

J. LANDY (Australia) became the only man to get inside 4 minutes for the mile three times, when he clocked 3 min. 58.6 sec. in his comeback attempt..

J. KHALID, 13 year old Pakistan bowler became the youngest player in first class cricket when he played against the M.C.C.

D. STEPHENS, Melbourne's "flying" milkman, set a world 6 mile record of 27 min. 54 sec., beating Zatopek's 27:59.2.

JOHNNY SAXTON regained the world welterweight boxing title with a points verdict over champion Carmen Basilio.

F. NITIKIN (U.S.S.R.) lifted 266¾ lb. for a new world lightweight press record.

C. VINCI (U.S.A.) set a new bantamweight clean and jerk world record with a lift of 289 lb.

ALAIN MIMOUN, Algerian distance runner, won the International Cross Country race at Belfast, helping France to win the team championship.

Manley Shakes Busta — Jamaica Locals Poll

KINGSTON.—Municipal and Parish elections have given the Peoples National Party a sweeping victory over its opponents, the Jamaica Labour Party and the newly formed Peoples Freedom Movement.

This clean sweep in the local elections puts the PNP in complete control of Central and Local Government. Nothing now lies in the way of the present Government carrying out its long desired Plan for Progress.

Chief Minister and Leader of the PNP, Mr. Norman Manley, welcomes this victory as a vote of confidence and a challenge to his party to continue its work for the country. Further he stated, "It is much more than that, it is a challenging mandate to Government to continue work with everything we have and can give to the development of our country. I accept the challenge with no spirit of pride but with renewed determination to do our best."

The old reactionary Labour Government led by Bustamante for 12 years is now buried. 'God rest the dead'. Busta and his corrupt stooges have fallen on the sharp edges of their own swords, which they had used against the people for perpetuating and defending illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, grafts, suppression of civil liberties, colonialism, as against low wages and standard of living of the workers.

The Peoples National Party, after 17 years of

continued on page 5

GUIANA CONSTITUTION

The new Constitution announced for Guiana allows for a single chamber Legislative Council of 24 seats—12 elected, 8 nominated and 4 officials. The Executive will comprise 5 elected, 4 officials, 1 nominated and the Governor. Dr. Jagan has commented that this is even worse than the one preceding the Waddington Constitution.

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

June 1956

Trinidad Bill—bans choice of reading

from John La Rose

PORT OF SPAIN

THE Trinidad Government have steeped themselves in the morass of their anti-popular actions by introducing an undesirable and fascist bill called the "Undesirable Publications Bill."

In doing so, the Government have crowned the anti-civil rights campaign they commenced in 1950 when by the Powers and Privileges Ordinance they deprived the people of Trinidad and Tobago of their unique right to attend meetings of the Legislative Council, a right which they had vindicated with their blood at the Water Riots in 1903.

Summarising Clause 3 of the Bill, the Governor in Council would have the power to prohibit the importation of publications by merely naming persons or associations which publish them, without having to name the specific title, date, etc.

The Order provides for banning of publications, even those without titles, also any engraving or die,

continued on page 5

Police Trickery in St. Vincent

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent.—This sugar and arrowroot isle has recently seen one of its greatest demonstrations of working class solidarity, when 1,100 sugar workers came out on strike over wages and for the publication of the report of the Commission of Enquiry on conditions in the industry.

Several other sections came out, including print workers, dockers and refuse collectors.

In face of this undaunted spirit, the Government and Police tried every trick to provoke the strikers into violent action, and then use it as the excuse for mass arrests and emergency rule.

Under the able leadership of their union and its President, Hon. E. T. Joshua, the workers maintained their calm and resolute stand, avoiding all provocation.

The Superintendent of Police forced his way to Union headquarters to arrest Mr. Joshua, but the people kept firm and ordered him away from private property.

Police and troops turned up fully armed. They arrested 61 pickets and strikers, and without an emergency being proclaimed, these men were charged with unlawful assembly and kept in isolated cells incommunicado without trial and without bail.

Under police protection the estate owners armed their watchmen with guns and sent them to the nearby villages to shoot the peasants' animals in order to kindle unrest in the area.

The estates supplied the police with meat, milk and other food and the Administrator used all his powers to incite the people to public disorder.

A Bill passed on 28th March requires 24 hours notice before permission can be given for holding a public meeting. The Union has not been given such permission, however.

In a mass demonstration on 18th March the workers made biting criticisms of the high-handedness of the local administration appointed by the British Government, and in a resolution demanded:—

> "We the working class demand a proper system of education for our children and also a system of land distribution for our overcrowded towns and villages which are gone in total disrepair for the last two decades."

Picturesque Hamilton Harbour

Bermuda News Bureau Photo

THE BERMUDA STORY

HAMILTON, March.—Bermuda is frequently looked upon as being outside the British West Indies. Many of us however regard our territory as a part of the West Indies. In support of this, we had a delegation attending the 1947 Conference of the Caribbean Labour Congress.

On March 21st, in tropical threatening weather, several hundred persons attended at Alexandrina Hall, to witness the founding meeting of the BERMUDA LABOUR PARTY. Under the chairmanship of Mr. H. H. Brown the meeting had been advertised in press and radio. Mr. Walter St. George Brown, formerly a member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, was elected provisional Chairman.

RUGGED HISTORY

Bermudians have a rugged history. Today the people enjoy very little of what we all understand by democracy—even on a colonial basis! To vote, a person over 21 years of age, must own at least £60 of freehold property. More ambitious men who want to stand as candidates for election must own freehold property to the minimum value of £240. This small group of islands has a population of 50,000 people, two-third of which are of African descent and mixed bloods and are condemned to the most menial occupations. Notwithstanding nominal British rule and even Colonial Office legislation, the English note currency is illegal and the American DOLLAR generally accepted. With the American financial priority, goes the American way of life, jim-crow, the cult of race superiority, etc.

The newly formed Labour Party now takes its place in the Caribbean progressive movement. Among the immediate proposals outlined in the press statement released by Mr. WALTON St. G. BROWN since, are demands for:—

(a) Universal Adult Suffrage.
(b) Modernisation of the Trade Union laws, to remove the worse aspects still deriving from Britain's Trade Union Disputes Act 1927—since repealed.
(c) Establishment of statutory Public Utilities Boards to control ALL public services.
(d) Promotion of local industries.
(e) Statutory protection of Bermudian workers against imported labour.

Possibilities exist for the development of real civic improvements, but it will need considered and firm leadership in close association with the overall Caribbean movement, marching on to nationhood.

★ EDITORIAL ★

National Insult

FOR political sleight-of-hand the British Government takes a lot of beating. Two months after they plotted at the latest Federation Conference in London (February, 1956) they published their Report in an air of such peaceful calm, that leads one to suspect their FEAR of PUBLIC OPINION.

After the 16 West Indian delegates had met for sixteen days within the palatial Lancaster House they arrived at only one satisfactory conclusion—Federation Day is FEBRUARY 23rd. To think that sixteen elected representatives could stomach signing this document, with only a single positive progressive step, will take more believing than the average West Indian can summon. There are other repercussions too.

Look at the latest Guiana constitutional proposals handed down on April 25th. If the Federal phonies who sat in London had put up a real fight in February, would Lennox-Boyd have had the cheek to decree for Guiana, 12 elected seats only in the legislature in comparison with 8 nominees and 4 officials with the Governor as boss?

Tame subservience

The basis for the Colonial Office attempting this unforgiveable liberty was clearly set out in paragraph 40 (JUDICIAL MATTERS) when our representatives agreed to understand that in places where,

> "we have used the phrase AFTER CONSULTATION WITH, the Governol-General, having undertaken that consultation, (HE) is thereafter free to act in his discretion."

What claim can West Indians make to responsible government when our approval is set down to such subservience to a foreign ruler?

Worse was yet to come. The sixteen representatives from 10 island territories also agreed to widen, yes to expand the RESERVED POWERS of the Governor-General:—

> "to make general the power of the Governor-General to reserve Bills instead of specifying the particular categories of Bills in respect of which the power might be exercised." (Paragraph 16 A.)

These are major betrayals of every West Indian aspiration. Any wonder every report from Guiana is that every political group catering for nationalism has received the latest award with fierce resentment. Every visitor to the Legco remained seated in defiance when the strains of God Save the Queen heralded Sir Patrick Renison's message from London to Guiana.

Some people would laugh it off as an incredible farce. It is far worse than that, it is a national insult. We must be up and doing, PROTEST, PROTEST, PROTEST.

Callous Treatment

THE callousness with which British imperialism conducts its relations in the West Indies seems to know no bounds.

From time to time this newspaper has to draw into the light of day the excesses which pass for "good government" "law and order".

In dealing with the working class and ordinary people of the West Indies, law and order happens to find itself always ranged in support of the bosses and employers against the people.

Once again the workers of St. Vincent (pop. 70,000) have been made the victims of such "law and order".

The Administration came down heavily and openly in support of the moneyed interests against the workers, as our correspondent writes, not hesitating to use every form of intimidation and provocation.

Now and then, to appear democratic, the British Government says it wishes to encourage "healthy trade unionism". No sooner however than a healthy trade union uses its power in defence of its elementary rights, that we see the true worth of such sentiments.

The fact that such unlimited force is available and is used in St. Vincent and other parts of the West Indies is not generally known to British workers.

Nor do they know of all the other denials of elementary civil liberties which our people have to endure, such as bans on what we read, holding of meetings, etc.

The Trinidad Bill which would make sweeping attacks on all types of literature, as described by John La Rose in this issue, should not be allowed to go by default.

Every opportunity should be used to draw attention to, and to protest against both these issues in St. Vincent and Trinidad. They concern our vital interests.

Letters to M.P.s. to the Governors concerned, and to the Colonial Secretary would be striking blows in defence of freedom.

'I Was Deported Because I Fought Colour Bar' — CLAUDIA

Trinidad-born Claudia Jones has lived in the United States since she was eight years old, but was imprisoned and finally deported last year.

In this interview, Miss Jones answers some questions put to her by our reporter, GEORGE BOWRIN.

Why were you deported from the United States Miss Jones?

I WAS a victim of the McCarthyite hysteria against independent political ideas in the U.S.A.—a hysteria which penalizes anyone who holds ideas contrary to the official pro-war, pro-reactionary, pro-fascist line of the white ruling class of that country.

I was deported from the U.S.A. because as a Negro woman Communist of West Indian descent, I was a thorn in their side in my opposition to Jim Crow racist discrimination against 16 million Negro Americans in the United States, in my work for redress of these grievances, for unity of Negro and white workers, for women's rights and my general political activity urging the American people to help by their struggles to change the present foreign and domestic policy of the United States.

I was deported and refused an opportunity to complete my American citizenship because I fought for peace, against the huge arms budget which funds should be directed to improving the social needs of the people.

Claudia Jones

I was deported because I urged prosecution of the lynchers rather than prosecution of Communists and other democratic Americans who oppose the lynchers and big financiers and war mongers the real advocates of force and violence in the U.S.A.

RACIST BIAS

Is there any special significance to the fact that you are a West Indian and, as such were deported from the United States?

Yes, I definitely think so. The very law under which I was deported, the reactionary Walter-McCarran law widely known for its special racist bins towards West Indians and peoples of Asiatic descent. This law, which came into being as a result of the whole reactionary drive against progressive ideas in the United States, encourages immigration of fascist scum from Europe but restricts West Indian immigration, once in their thousands annually to the United States, to 100 persons per year, from *all* the Caribbean islands.

This works special hardship among West Indians who have family ties and who are permanent residents and citizens of the U.S.A.

You are a Communist, are you not Miss Jones? Would you tell us what led you to become a Communist?

Gladly. From an early age, like most native Negro Americans and with the additional penalty of being foreign born and a Negro in the United States, I experienced the indignity of second-class citizenship in the U.S. My parents emigrated from the West Indies in 1924 in the hope of finding greater economic opportunity and freedom to rear their children. But what we found instead in the U.S. was not only economic poverty for the working class, but the special brand of American racism—Jim Crow.

NO ESCAPE

In the U.S.A. no matter what the social class status, no Negro escapes the scourge of Jim Crow.

I learned that those who fought most consistently for the interests of the workers, for their trade union organization and social needs were the Communists.

My daily experiences as a Negro youth in the U.S.A. led me to search out political forces that were doing something about these things; political forces who not only fought on a day to day basis to alleviate these conditions but who had a perspective as to a radical solution of these conditions.

I learned through study and participation in the Communist movement that the Communist Party, based on its political science, the science of Marxism-Leninism, that these conditions were man-made and therefore could be changed by mankind through understanding of their origin and to eliminate these practices and conditions.

DANGEROUS IDEAS

So that it is as a result of these struggles that you WERE indicted, convicted, and jailed in the United States?

Yes, for these struggles, I was indicted, convicted, and served a year and a day sentence despite a heart condition and related illnesses, under the infamous Smith Act—a reactionary statute under which progressive fighters are convicted and jailed not for committing any overt act, but merely for their ideas.

Did you ever meet West Indians in the U.S. Could you tell us something about their conditions?

Yes. There are over 100,000 West Indians in New York City alone. The West Indian community in the States plays an active political, economic and social role in the life of the nation, and particularly lends it's strength to advancing the struggles of the Negro people in the U.S.A. for full equality and freedom. Numerous West Indians are among the most active trade unionists in industry.

Then there are numerous West Indian professionals associated with various political and social welfare organizations in the community. As a whole West Indians in the U.S.A. constantly express concern and

continued on page 5

West Indians and Unemployment

REDUNDANCY is news in Britian today. Hardly a day goes by but the newspapers publish details of another group of workers who have been fired, or are on short time.

And this is only the beginning. If the Tories have their way, redundancy must spread to the distributive trades, and throughout heavy, medium and light industries.

The Tories make no secret of their desire to create a pool of unemployed.

The Economist, organ of big business, has called editorially for such policies as would lead to the creation of a pool of unemployed. Several other news papers have done the same. And so have many of the Tory leaders.

Creating fear

The aim of the Tories is to depress wages, and to force the workers to work harder. They reason that when the workers go in fear of their jobs, they would become more amenable to wage cuts, and to drives to raise productivity.

Naturally, mass redundancy would affect the peoples from the Caribbean domiciled in Britain, as much as any one else. In fact, because of the general prejudice against foreigners and non Europeans, mass redundancy would probably strike them harder than any other group.

Workers from the Caribbean are already affected by the sackings that have taken place during the last few weeks.

The Tory decision to create a pool of unemployed is a direct result of their foolish and irresponsible

continued on page 5

Is there a West Indian Culture?

by T. Aton

WE publish in this issue an article on culture which deserves careful attention. It represents a point of view; and a point of view which is not often put forward. For that reason alone it is deserving of our serious consideration.

Now that we are entering a new phase in the histories of the peoples of the British-controlled Caribbean, proper critical discussion of such subjects is of the utmost importance. Only such discussion could guarantee that we will commit the minimum of mistakes and ensure the prompt correction of these mistakes.

Signed articles on this page represent the point of view of the writer and not necessarily the point of view of the Editorial Board. It is the policy of the Editorial Board to solicit a wide range of views, a range representing practically all the leading trends in politics and cultural matters in the British Caribbean. The point of view of the Editorial Board is expressed in the editorial.

Letters, and suggestions for future articles will be gratefully received.

SINCE the war there has been a resurgence of interest in matters cultural in the British-controlled Caribbean. And, the writers, the artists and the critics, all have had their say on the basic questions of culture, its role, its development, its sources, and its motivating factors.

We have been told that we possess a West Indian Culture. We have been told, often by the same gentlemen, that we are working towards a West Indian culture.

We have been told, that a West Indian culture is not only feasible; but is the only " hope for our people."

We have been told that as we work towards West Indian nationhood, so we must throw up a culture responsive towards that nationhood. And that culture we are assured, is rooted in the main in negro slavery, in the contributions of India, and somewhat in the contributions of the British.

Finally, as the crowning argument in favour of their ideas, we are invited to see in the similarity of the cultures of the various peoples of the so-called British Caribbean, the proof that there is one West Indian culture, strong, single, indivisible.

Those who differ from this view-point, are described as " insular "; it is said that they are unable to see further than their own islands, and that they are trying to get away from our slave background.

" What have we got to be ashamed of in slavery?" ask certain of these people.

And, answering their own question.

" We were slaves yesterday. True. But today they can't treat us as slaves any longer."

How superficial can we get

This whole line of thought is shallow and superficial.

In the first place, there is no such thing as a West Indian nation. That concept is pure nonsense—and the sooner that our glib young men get rid of it the better for all concerned.

The West Indies is a geographical concept. The term " West Indian " has no connotation of race, colour or nationality.

" West Indian " is a term, which like the term " European," is loose, vague and rather inexact. A man is a Jamaican from the West Indies, not a " West Indian " from Jamaica.

It is ridiculous to describe islands separated by vast stretches of water, in some cases hundreds of miles, in other cases over a thousand miles, as one nation.

Equally, how could these countries be working towards one nation?

A nation must have a unity of territory and economic life. Do Jamaicans and Barbadians share common territory or a common economic life?

If these people share a common nationhood, by the same token all the Europeans share a common nationhood; and so do the English and the New Zealanders.

So, there could be no question of a West Indies culture responsive to, or reflecting a West Indian nationhood.

Confusion upon Confusion

In the second place, what these teachers of ours forget, is, that cultures everywhere bear the stamp of their environment.

The general pattern may be the same, but it does not follow that the culture is similar; and that we can talk correctly, of having the same culture.

The French and the British are alike in the general pattern. Both cultures belong to what is commonly called "modern culture".

French novels bear a strong resemblance to British novels. They are concerned with the same basic problems. The French concern themselves with the same eternal triangle. And so on.

But French culture is still undeniably French, in form, and in secondary content. And so with British culture. Both peoples have different cultures within the same stream of capitalist twentieth century culture.

Looking beneath the surface—and if our bright young men could tear themselves away from their "serious" books and their pretty womenfolk they would see the point too—it is easy to find the differences in the respective cultures of the people of the British-controlled Caribbean.

The Barbadian, thrifty, careful and reliable, puts his stamp on all his national institutions. It has taken the Barbadian to build the most efficient educational system in the British-controlled Caribbean.

The Trinidadian, volatile, talkative, and often irritatingly frivolous, has built the carnival into a national institution.

★

It is impossible to think of the imposing masters of Codrington College, doing the "leggo" on a Carnival Tuesday evening. Or of a respected Trade Union leader of Bridgetown, winning a prize for the best portrayal of "Ole Mas!"

But, it is not unknown in Trinidad for a master at Queen's Royal College to "jump up" in a band on Marine Square. And everyone in Trinidad knows of how, one of the more respected of their Trade Union leaders, a City Father, and a middle-aged man to boot, recently won a prize for an "ole Mas".

Of course, it is perfectly true that Barbadian novels like novels by Jamaicans and Trinidadians are concerned largely with problems of poverty and colour, and a revolt against the things that be.

So what?

The bulk of post-war Indian and Middle East literature, are concerned precisely with those problems.

The similarity in the cultures of the Jamaican, the Barbadian and the Trinidadian, is no more proof of their common West Indian culture, than is our fondness for rice, proof that we share a common culture with the Burmese and the people of Soviet Armenia.

Truth about slavery

In the third place, it is false and dangerous to overrate the contributions of three of the main sources to the cultures of the West Indian nations. Obviously, the cultures of today have some of their roots in slavery; in Africa, and in Britain, and in India. But, and this is the salient point, overlooked practically all the time —and you bright young men take notice—the fact is, that this contribution is no vaster, and no more important, than similar contributions made elsewhere to other cultures.

Culture does not develop in a hothouse. It is a creature of the fields, responsive to the interplay of other cultures, basing itself on other cultures, and in turn giving a dynamic to other cultures.

Rome had Greece to thank. Greece based herself on Egypt. And Egypt of the Pharaohs ought to have paid a vote of thanks to the scores of nameless civilizations which gave their little to her pomp and majesty.

And the British, or at any rate most of them, were serfs a short while ago. And there was slavery in Scotland at the turn of the nineteenth century.

But do the British go round telling the world that they are descended from serfs, and that they have the Egyptians to thank for their enormous contributions to agriculture?

It is not therefore, a question of being ashamed of slavery. Shame is an emotion which has no place in sober reasoning or in a movement of the working class.

The fact is, that this over-emphasis on India, Africa, and Britain, weakens morale, gives a hand to the anti-national forces, and plays straight into the hands of the extreme reactionaries, the imperialists and the racists alike.

To sum up. Each nation in the British-controlled Caribbean has its own culture. And each culture bears a strong resemblance to the other.

That, is both understandable and desirable.

There is no justification for the use of the term "West Indian culture" today. And, even if tomorrow such a term could be used with some justification, it remains true to add, that such a term would be loose and general, lacking the precision that is so necessary in matters of this nature.

The confusion which the term "European culture" engenders ought to be a sharp warning to us.

As for the critics who attack us for our "insularity" we pause long enough to point out that they have themselves revealed their own insularity in no uncertain fashion.

They speak of a "West Indian culture". But by "West Indian" they mean purely British West Indian.

They see no further than they have been trained to look by the British educationalists.

Need we say more.

POST-BOX

Readers slam critic

The Editor,

Whilst glad to see your paper reviewing books dealing with the Caribbean area, I was shocked by the violence and rancour of "L" in reviewing "A Brighter Sun" by Sam Selvon.

It stimulated me to read the book since I felt the review could scarcely be a fair judgement of any book. Indeed, I found the review bore little relation to the novel which to quote "L" (out of context) is " . . . fascinating material . . . a highly readable, honest and entertaining piece of work."

The style of the novel may have its faults—like any first attempt, but to say it lacks form is irrelevant—it is not a detective story. Most of the characters seem to be realistically drawn, with warm sympathy for Tiger's struggles to better his life and interracial friendship winning through, but with no false sentimentalism.

If in a richer country, here, the Yankees are popular for their cash, then certainly it is no surprise to find it so in Trinidad—as the Lord Invader's popular calypso "Rum and Coca-Cola" describes.

Finally, it would be better editorial practice to name the writer of such a vitriolic review.

Wishing you every success in continuing to maintain and improve still further the good work of your paper.

(Miss) Ruth Nixon,
A London Student.

★

The Editor,

I am appalled by the review by "L" of Selvon's, "A Brighter Sun." Since the paper aims to represent the broad W.I. movement, and to encourage W.I. arts, it is horrifying to find such an ignorant, biased, and sectarian attack on a young W.I. author.

"A Brighter Sun" is not a great novel, but it is certainly honest and has much merit besides. Before discussing the merits let me examine the main criticisms of "L". He is annoyed because the hero is shown as a social climber. But thousands of this type exist. They are a product of capitalist society. "Boy" and "chief" were the common terms used for workers and their U.S. bosses respectively. Must we deny this? Selvon does not use the word "native" in a derogatory manner but purely to distinguish local from foreign. Why object?

"L" is surprised that the women were anxious to go to bed with the Yanks. Either he does not know Trinidad or he is an ostrich, for there were brothels, semi-brothels, and "enthusiastic amateurs" stretching all the way from Sangre Grande to Chagaramus. It was one of the curses of the Yankee invasion. Foreign troops carry that curse wherever they go and Trinidadians are no paragons of virtue to have resisted. Moreover Selvon makes no play of it, but merely remarks, in passing, that some women indulged.

Now for the merits. On p. 191 an American advises Tiger to "interest yourself in how you are governed." This develops into the realisation that with careerists in the legislature, government is not in the interest of the people, and the idea of self-government is seen. The overriding lesson is unity. Tiger's parents reprimand him for having Negro friends, a very common attitude among older Indians, but later Tiger says the struggle is for "everybody's rights not only Indians." This progressive view has come through hard experience.

The night Urmilla was ill Indian and Negro doctors refused to attend her but a European came from a long way off. This shows that class is as great an enemy as racial prejudice, and not all Europeans in our homeland are callous, or are Imperialists.

The novel is not "a slanderous attack on our peasantry, our women folk, and our progressive movement and elected institutions,' as "L" says, but an honest spotlighting of difficulties. Moreover we have no peasantry in the accepted sense, but a host of virtual share-croppers. What elected institutions and progressive movements of note had we in this period? If we had, why have we mounting unemployment and a rising cost of living? Why waste time fighting Colonial Office for what we "already have"? This unassuming little novel is well worth reading. There is much progressive thought in it.

YUSSUF HOSEIN.

TRINIDAD PLANTER WARNS U.S.

MR. NEAL FAHEY, one of the best known of Trinidad planters, and a man who has contributed scores of articles to the national press, has a written a particularly interesting article for the Port of Spain Gazette of April 8th.

He begins his article by pointing out that Port of Spain is short of adequate space for cold storage plant on the wharf. Getting adequate space, he argues would mean encroaching on existing rights and facilities.

And that means that the Trinidad Government would have to get back into its possession, the "western position of our wharf area" which was leased for 99 years to the United States in 1940.

The leasing of the wharf area for such a long term he pointed out, "was a flagrant breach of democratic principle."

Finally, says Mr. Fahey, through our lack of adequate storage facilities, we are unable and would be unable for decades to "take full advantage of our geographical advantages."

Mr. Fahey ends, by advising the USA to make concessions in this matter. Otherwise, "the general feeling is that such (concessions) are only granted to nations or races in a position to make themselves a danger or nuisance if not granted."

For the benefit of our readers, the Churchill Government leased several bases in the West Indies to the United States Government in 1940, in return for 100 overage destroyers.

The West Indian peoples had no say in the matter.

Mr. Fahey's article refers to an area of the Port of Spain wharf that was contained in the lease.

SELF-GOVERNMENT SAYS ANTIGUA

A new newspaper, the Anvil made its appearance in Antigua on April 18th. It is a four page paper, the third in the country and claims to be the journal of the Antigua National Party.

In a policy statement published in the first issue, the ANP asserts that it stands for Self Government for Antigua in a Federated West Indies with a responsible Government. It also wants Antigua to be the Capital of such a Federation.

Duty Preference for Jamaica Bananas

JAMAICA Bananas entering the United Kingdom, now enjoy an Import duty preference, three times as great as that which has been in force before World War II.

This is the result of action taken under the waiver, which the British Government secured last year, at the General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs (GATT), at Geneva.

The waiver gives the British Government the right to increase preferences in favour of economically backward colonies.

This means that bananas from non-Commonwealth sources, which hitherto have been paying an important cess of £2.10 per ton, on entry to the U.K. now pay £7.10 per ton. While bananas from the commonwealth countries pay no duty at all.

This move is sure to give a fillip to banana imports from Jamaica, and other banana producing areas within the sphere of British Imperialism. It would be welcome by the big Jamaican planters who have been clamouring for such a move.

TRINIDAD HOUSING A Solution?

A TRINIDAD Housing Policy Committee appointed in April, 1953 has decided, according to a report published recently, to recommend to Government that they help the workers and middle class people to buy their houses on the hire-purchase.

Government would finance the purchase of the houses; and the workers would repay the loan, and pay also a nominal rate of interest.

The committee did not make their recommendations out of the love for the homeless and the poorly housed. It is the result of the long struggle of the masses for better housing conditions.

Moreover, the Housing Policy Committee has not provided an answer to an important question—how are the unemployed and the poorly paid workers, the overwhelming majority of the population, to pay for their own houses—even on the hire-purchase.

BARBADIAN WORKERS

The British Transport Commission has been busy employing Barbadians in its undertakings. During March and April its officials have been to Barbados selecting suitable candidates for posts as ticket collectors, shunters, porters, minor clerical and other duties.

We understand that most of them have already assumed their duties.

The C.L.C. (London Branch) extends a welcome greeting to these people, and looks forward to them taking an active part in the lives of their respective Trade Unions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SPEAKING to the Annual meeting of the Association of Medical Geographers in Montreal early last month, Dr. David Lowenthal of Vassar College, New York, said that even with greatly increased birth control the population of Barbados would reach a density of 1,900 persons per square mile in 1986.

With the present density of 1,400, it was the most tightly packed place in the Western hemisphere.

Hurricane Janet Relief Fund has passed the $500,000 (BWI) mark. The Fund, raised in Trinidad, includes donations from Jamaica and other Islands in the British West Indies.

In a proposed allocation, Grenada is to receive 62½%, Barbados 27½% and British Honduras 10%.

★

JAMAICA now has a ninth Minister. Mr. William McKenzie Seivright, a St. Andrews baker has been appointed a minister, in accordance with the constitutional changes made last year. He takes over the job of Minister of Agriculture and Lands from Chief Minister Manley, who has now gone on to new fields; the portfolio of Minister of Development.

★

TRINIDAD trade unionists and sections of the public protested strongly to Government against the inclusion of Mr. Oli Mohamed on a Trinidad delegation to the Conference of Free Trade Unions in Geneva.

Mr. Mohamed, they claim, is a part time trade union official and should be dropped in preference to a full time official. He is a municipal employee of the San Fernando Borough Council, and in his spare time he is secretary of both the All Trinidad Sugar Estates and Factories Union, and the Municipal Workers Union.

We understand however, these protests went unheeded. Mr. Mohamed has gone to Geneva.

Other members of the delegation were Mr. Albert Gomes, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Labour, and Mr. John Rojas, President General of the Oil Field Workers Trade Union.

BRITISH CLERICAL WORKERS WELCOME WEST INDIANS

DURING Easter 1956, the 298 delegates to the 64th Annual Conference of the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union, held at Scarborough, unanimously resolved that:

"this conference reaffirms its belief in the principle that eligibility should depend upon the suitability of persons for available posts, and that there should be no disqualification on the grounds of race or colour.

"Having regard to this declaration we welcome the employment in the clerical profession of immigrants from the WEST INDIES and other countries on the same basis and conditions as existing employees."

Delegates to this conference came from all parts of the United Kingdom, and they represented the clerical workers employed in general office duties, and in more specialised clerical activities.

The clerical workers employed in Engineering, mining, accounting and broadcasting were well represented.

NCCL TO FIGHT FASCIST MEASURES

THE National Council of Civil Liberties took yet another bold step forward for the peoples of the British Controlled Caribbean, at its annual meeting in London on Saturday, 12th May, 1956.

It passed two resolutions which are a condemnation of British colonial rule.

One condemns outright the latest piece of fascist legislation now being introduced in Trinidad in the form of a bill to restrict still further the freedom of expression, and the freedom of thought of Trinidadians and Tobagonians. (See John LaRose's art).

The other demands that the Tory Government ends its state of seige in Guiana, by restoring the withdrawn constitution, and reinstating the people's elected representatives.

The National Council of Civil Liberties would be taking up these matters at the highest level possible, the United Nations included.

Strike Breaking, Mr. Manley?

KINGSTON, Jamaica. Mr. Norman Manley, Chief Minister of Jamaica, has declared a State of Emergency, and called in the troops to unload a ship in Kingston port.

The dockers have been striking for higher wages.

Fete Match, Spirit

from page 6

August or September, with another next February, prior to selection. Some intensive coaching in the two weak departments may pay off.

Our seventeen for next year reads:—Goddard (capt.), Worrell (vice-capt.), Weekes, Walcott, Atkinson, Valentine, Smith, Sobers, Ramadhin, Dewdney, Depeiza, Hunte, Reid, Kanhai or Pairaudeau, Roberts or Williams, Oliver, and another fast bowler.

Talk of a W.I. cricket team provokes other thoughts. Jamaica is to bring their rules into agreement with the Trinidad F.A., hence a W.I. Football XI? And why not a united Olympic team? These questions will be dealt with in later issues. Any ideas, readers?

GUIANA RULERS RESORT TO PAWNBROKING

ON Monday, 9th April, investors in London were offered a £3,540,000 worth of stock at a bargain price of £3,416,000, by Sir Patrick Renison, Governor of British Guiana.

To bolster his offer, Governor Renison commits the people of British Guiana to repay this loan between 1980 and 1985, at a five per cent (£177,000) interest on Stock. A tidy interest rate indeed.

The British Government has already secured £540,000 worth of stock. The remaining £3,000,000 has been thrown open to private investors.

Investors however, did not respond as readily as the British Government. This news received poor welcome in Lombard and Throgmorton Streets, London. And the Manchester Guardian offers an explanation to this. Its Financial Editor states that British Guiana, "is something of a political risk, and the stock is not guaranteed by the British Government."

Here is the chagrin, a lucrative offer, but hedged around with possibilities.

Although the Manchester Guardian says: "Five per cent is believed to be an historically high yield," the knowledge that a strong, united party, exists (even out of office) is a sound deterrent to the wholesale economic plunder of British Guiana.

WHITEHALL OFFERS NEW CONSTITUTION

IN an attempt to exploit the present political situation in British Guiana, the Tory Government is offering the Guianese people a new constitution.

The constitution provides for four officials, eight nominated, and twelve elected members.

The Tory Government is obviously guided by the assumption that this constitution would serve to rally certain elements round it. And in so doing, strike another blow at the Peoples Progressive Party, which it has till now, failed to smash.

However, as already stated by the Guianese people, they would bear preferably the existing, undisguised Iron Rule.

Caribbean Labour Congress
London Branch

Annual General Meeting

"Should a Coloured Man Share Equal Rights?

All Invited

HOLBORN HALL, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1
SUNDAY, JULY 1st. 2 p.m.

Jamaica Poll

from page 1

struggle, has now reached its zenith, a point where the Jamaica Labour Party found itself in 1946. PNP must now either go left or further right. It must descend as the JLP has done, or revolutionise its Policy as a whole.

On the surface, this election is a vote of confidence for the PNP, but it must be remembered that over 60 per cent of the electorate stayed away from the polls. Was it a protest against the immatured election promises of the PNP in 1954/5 and the refusal or inability of this 13 month-old Government to challenge the bitter question of unemployment which is the greatest menace in our country?

The Chief Minister said: "Unemployment is an historical legacy and will last as long as life lasts."

Now all the stumbling blocks have been removed, so can the people expect to see the 17 years of theorising now moulded into practical progressive work?

The Choice

The Peoples Freedom Movement contested 6 Divisions but failed to return any candidate. Those in the Corporate Area lost their deposits while the two country candidates saved theirs, one losing to the JLP by 61 votes.

As in the General Election last year, the fight centred around the two major parties. The people had to choose between completing the process of wiping out the Labour Party or allowing it to continue to be a force in the country.

Defeat of the Bustamante Labour Party will now bring the burning questions of work, unemployment pay more houses, reduction in cost of living, and a more militant fight against imperialism, into the forefront again and create the conditions for the Peoples Freedom Movement to replace the corrupt and backward Labour Party as a real opposition to the Right-wing controlled PNP.

RESULTS

	PNP	JLP	Ind
Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation ...	19	6	
St. Thomas	10	7	0
Portland	9	5	1
St. Mary	10	3	1
St. Ann	14	3	4
Trelawny	9	9	0
St. James	13	1	2
Hanover	3	4	5
Westmoreland	10	4	4
St. Elizabeth	7	6	6
Clarendon	7	14	0
Manchester	16	1	1
St. Catherine	14	7	0

Total: PNP 141, JLP 68, Ind. 25, Farmer 1.

CLAUDIA JONES

from page 2

support for the liberation struggles of the people in the West Indies, for freedom from colonial exploitation and slavery, for dignity and self-government.

Would you say something about your view of the role of the women in the West Indies?

I have been quite impressed with the activities of the women of the West Indies and their growing participation in the liberation movement as well as the international movement for peace, security and the rights of children. There is no question but that West Indian women represent an indispensable ally in the fight for colonial freedom, because women are triply exploited in the colonies, as women, as mothers and as colonials, subjected to indignities and great suffering because of the status of their countries.

Participation of increasing numbers of West Indian women side by side with their men in struggle for national independence and self-government will grow because women above all, want a better life, dignity and equality and a better world in which their children will live.

Is there anything else you would would like to add?

Yes, I would like to thank West Indians in the Caribbean, in Britain and America, as well as all other democratic and progressive forces who interceded in my behalf while jailed for my ideas in an American prison.

Caribbean News

Monthly Newspaper
obtainable from
CENTRAL BOOKS LTD.
2, Parton Street, W.C.1

NAT COLE INCIDENT — INDIGNATION

by Eric Deslandes

THIS is a tale of two cities. Part 1, begins in Moscow where members of the all-coloured cast of Porgy and Bess have been receiving warm hospitality everywhere they have appeared in the Soviet Republic.

According to reports in the Russian press their performances have been rated as, " highly entertaining ". Everywhere the cast appeared they were greeted with handshakes and smiles, and a courting couple in the troupe took time off from work to get married in the Big City.

Episode 2

After recovering from an assault by two white men when he appeared at Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A., with Ted Heath's band, world famous Negro crooner Nat King Cole has declared that he will not appear in the South anymore.

Perhaps the " unkindest cut of all " in this most humiliating experience for the popular crooner is the fact that he was appearing in his home state. Apparently the local boy who made good became the " prophet without honour in his country."

ACT UNDER FIRE

The notorious MacCarren Act which is partly responsible for the limited number of West Indians now allowed to migrate to the U.S.A., has come under strong criticisms from the Labour Youth League.

This organisation has rallied support from other progressive movements and has declared that, " a crucial stage has been reached in the application of this act . . . What is involved is the future of traditional liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. . . "

They further called for intervention " in one or both of the following ways ":—

1. Going on record for repeal of the Act and for halting its application.
2. That American citizens should file their opinion as an " Amicus Curiae—friend of the Court " with the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Apart from the immigration aspects, the Act also deals with Internal Security. It was under the " communist front " provisions of this Act that the Labour Youth League is charged, and whose case is now before the Federal District Court of Appeals.

Among the various groups that have taken a position on the McCarren Act are, the Baptist Student Fellowship, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, eighteen student leaders at the University of Wisconsin, the 2nd U.S. Assembly of Youth sponsored by the Young Adult Council, and scores of others.

Trinidad Bill

from page 1

deemed contrary to the public interest. This clause not only prohibits specific and future publications by persons or associations named, but also all previous publications by the same bodies, no matter what they might have been.

Penalty for violation of this section is either a fine of $250 or twelve months imprisonment or both.

Other clauses in the Bill are equally obnoxious. Whereas in the past it was incumbent on the Governor to examine and form an opinion on a certain publication which according to " his opinion " he then deemed seditious, the present bill will dispense with all that formality.

For example, if he decided that publications of Victor Collancz, Watts, Lawrence & Wishart, Jehovah Witnesses, National Council of Labour Colleges, or God knows what, were " contrary to public interest ", it matters not one whit whether it was Burns' poems, Shakespeare's plays or the Holy Bible which they published.

So long as these works were published by that " specified person or association of persons ", they would be subject to the ban.

'Better wait'

The Acting Attorney General in moving the second reading of the Bill on March 16th, 1956, was lyrical in his denunciation of " obnoxious publications which might do harm to citizens ", meaning primarily Communist publications.

But even the 'Guardian' editorial of 16/3/56 under the caption " Better Wait a Little " cautioned: " What we are uncertain about however, is the possibility of misuse to which the bill in its present form may be subject."

It may be invoked for instance to keep out publications of a particular religious denomination or book and magazines to which objections have been raised by a vocal puritanical minority.

Under the usual guise of attacking the Communists, what is sought is destruction of the few democratic rights which the people, especially the working class movement, still retain. As usual, the Marxists being in the vanguard, are made the scapegoats in order to drive a wedge between them and the popular masses, thereby to weaken the whole mass movement.

Joint action call

In the first instance the West Indian Independence Party protested to the Attorney General requesting withdrawal of the bill. The liberal weekly 'Clarion', closely associated with the Independent Labour Party, published the letter of appeal addressed to various political parties and trade unions by the WIIP, asking them to protest and calling for joint action.

The Legislature agreed on March 16th to postpone debate on the bill for a " reasonable time." All this is to the good so far, for it might give a popular mass movement against the bill time to develop.

Especially in the changed political situation created by the February 23rd Federation Agreement, the struggle for civil liberties, without which the West Indian labour movement will find itself fettered at every turn, should not be the concern only of the individual territory affected by these measures, but of the West Indian masses as a whole.

For that reason, the protest against this new move against civil liberties should be the responsibility of every political party, trade union, and welfare organisation worthy of the name.

Unemployment

from page 2

policies in the field of trade and foreign affairs.

Britain has squandered her resources building up a large army to keep the colonial peoples in subjection. Wars, such as the war in Kenya against the Liberation movement, swallow up millions and millions of pounds. So too with the war in Malaya. And Cyprus.

Vast sums are being spent in developing the atom and hydrogen bombs.

In the field of trade, Britain has refused to develop wide trade relations with China, the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe.

Britain cannot solve her economic problems and at the same time wage aggressive wars against the peoples in the colonies who are fighting for their independence.

But, it is not enough to fight for full employment. It is necessary to relate that fight to the struggle for a change in Britain's foreign policy, Britain's relations with the colonies, and her trade policy.

And in fighting for a change it is imperative to link arms with everyone who is willing to go some of the way with us.

Influential People

There are scores and scores of influential people, Pastors, M.P.s. and so on, who are against the colour-bar in jobs, but who are not opposed to the development of the atom and H-bombs.

There are scores of influential people who want a change in British relations to the colonies, but who would not go along with the idea of a change in Britain's trade policy.

We must build a broad united front of men of goodwill.

We must activate on behalf of the Caribbean peoples domiciled in this country, such various personages as Dr. Fisher, Jennie Lee, Sydney Silverman, Victor Gollancz, Kingsley Martin, Gaitskell and Nye Bevan himself.

We must get the Labour Party active on this question. So too with the Fabian Bureau, Rita Hinden and all. We must solicit and accept the help of Tory M.P.s. and the Liberal and Communist parties.

Unemployment can and must be fought. And unemployment must be beaten.

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JAMAICA ATHLETES IN THE MAKING

FROM Jamaica's famous Calabar school, nursery of such W.I. greats as Arthur Wint and Herb McKinley, comes news of another great runner, Leroy Keene.

Only 18 years old, Keene seized the coveted inter-school 440 yards championship with a record 50.3 seconds, a time McKinley considers, according to a "Gleaner" report, better than either his or Wint's at that age. From the U.S.A. now the graduate school for W.I. athletes, come offers of no less than four scholarships.

By virtue of superior facilities and intensive coaching, U.S. universities have proved of immense value to our athletes. One has only to compare G. Rhoden's performance in the 1948 Olympics, with his record-breaking run in 1952, to realise the importance of that intervening training spell at Morgan State College. McKinley at Ilinois, and Agostini at Villanova, are two others that come straight to mind.

But when, when are we going to make a positive effort to train and retain our athletes?

From the same inter-school games comes a most promising report of achievment in a field where we have not yet won our spurs—long jumping. Three jumpers have made showings, which experts like McKinley say, will put them in world class soon. To these young hopefuls the "Caribbean News" extends best wishes for the future.

Weight Lifters raise some problems

PREPARING for the July West Indian Championships, Trinidad weightlifting officials have decided to apply for international recognition so that records set locally may be listed as official. Three recognised officials must be present at every meeting, and plans are on foot to raise the number of such officials in Trinidad, from four to seven.

Rodney Wilkes and Len Kilgour, both Olympic medallists, have been doing well in local matches; Wilkes, Empire 132lb. champ, has bettered his own record with a snatch of 220½lb.

More Boxers

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Yolande Pompey and Hector Constance, three Trinidad boxers have arrived in England, seeking fame and fortune. They are "Lucky" Jordan, one-time light heavyweight champion, Edward Bishop, who ruled the welterweights, and Ronald Rush, ex-lightweight champion.

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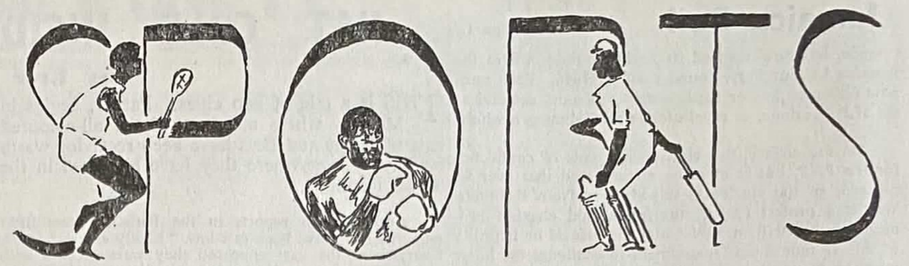

Fete Match Spirit Won't Do For Test Cricket

FETE match cricket, with the emphasis on hard hitting, quick runs, and stumping out the corks in a case of rum behind long stop, is a common feature in the Caribbean, but this cavalier attitude will not do in the international field. Certainly Test cricket must be gay and attractive, after all it is a game, yet lightheartedness can be carried too far. It is with this warning that we appraise the lessons of the New Zealand tour, with the 1957 U.K. tour in mind.

Without detracting from N.Z's performance in the last Test—and we wish them further successes—it must be agreed, viewing the results in the previous Tests of the series, that we played neither with determination nor seriousness. Our scores were 145 and 77.

The other great lesson of the tour is that our full potential was never realised. Batting rested heavily on Weekes, supported by Goddard, and bowling on Ramadhin, Valentine and Atkinson, Smith and Sobers occasionally shining. Our fast bowlers and opening bats were generally ineffective, underlining our weakness in these two departments in recent years.

Team Building

With next year's tour in mind, team building is the immediate concern, with particular emphasis on opening bats and fast bowlers. Certainties in the touring party are, Worrell, Weekes, Walcott, Valentine, Smith, Sobers, and Atkinson. It is reported that Ramadhin may not come because of a back injury but we hope he is selected, and used in fewer games. Goddard, too, is a certainty if he agrees to make the tour.

Wicket-keepers there are many and we have to choose carefully. Binns and Legall clearly need a new mental approach to the game. More encouraging are Depeiza, Reid, of Dominica, and Kanhai of B.G. who is reported to be a batsman as well. Our choice is Depeiza and Reid, with Kanhai, if he develops into a reliable batsman.

Of course, our biggest headaches are opening bats and fast bowlers. Roy Marshall, formerly of Barbados, is the answer to our opening bat problem if he is available, but there are difficulties. Having qualified for Hampshire, if he plays for the W.I., he'll have to spend another three years living in the county before representing them in the championship, and it is improbable that he would be willing to take that risk.

Hunte of Barbados has shown real promise, and is expected to be playing in England this season, gaining useful experience of English conditions, and strengthening his claim. No other opener appears on the scene. Pairaudeau is very unreliable, Rae has lost all touch, and Holt's form has deteriorated. It may prove worthwhile for Sobers and Goddard to concentrate on this role.

Fast Bowlers

Up to 1945 the W.I. had an array of top class fast bowlers, but today there are no Martindales, Constantines, nor Griffiths around, and the more the pity. Dewdney seems to be developing, and with more concentration, his fluent action may pay big dividends in the heavier atmosphere and grassy topped wickets here. King, on the other hand, is not successful, and does not stand up to physical strain.

Reports from Jamaica say that Gilchrist is faster than King, and if he acquires control, should be included. Another possible is Oliver of Trinidad, who, though not a genuine speed merchant, may be successful on green English wickets. We must aim at three fastmen who are wicket takers, and not in the team simply to take the shine off the ball before the spinners operate.

The medium pace department would be weaker through the absence of Gomez, so Atkinson and Goddard will have their work cut out, and this strengthens Oliver's claim. Worrell should bowl only occasionally, and Walcott even less, allowing both to concentrate on batting. The spinners are Valentine, Smith and Sobers, with Ramadhin, if he can be persuaded to make the trip. Roberts, of the Leeward Islands, gained experience during the N.Z. tour, and may do well in England.

Captaincy

The captaincy should be entrusted to Goddard, and the Board must prevail upon him to play. He is a great fighter, a great team leader and an allrounder of world stature. The second choice is Worrell, but he should not be taxed with captaincy. His batting genius might be impaired by the rigours of that task, and we will need the hundreds, and double centuries that flow so gracefully from his bat. Atkinson does not appear to get the best out of his men, nor is it clear that he is a cricket strategist. This makes it so much more important to induce Goddard to lead the team.

Our team would be strong, and may even be great. There is just enough time to bring on opening bats and fast bowlers, and the W.I. Cricket Board must get moving. A quadrangular tour should be arranged for

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SPORTS FLASHES

D. Sime (*U.S.A.*), shattered H. Dillard's nine year old world record of 22.3 seconds for the 220 yards low hurdles, with a time of 22.2 secs., in N. Carolina. With 20.1, he also equalled Agostini's new mark for the 220 yards flat.

Mike Agostini (Trinidad), unofficially equalled the world record for the 100 yards sprint, with a time of 9.3 seconds, at Long Beach, California. Some weeks ago he clocked 20.1 secs., to set a new mark for both the 200 metres and 220 yards dash. At that same meeting he turned in 9.4 secs. for the 100 yards.

Thelma Hopkins of Belfast, clearing 5 feet 8½ inches, broke Chudina's (U.S.S.R.) high jump record for women.

J. Bailey of Australia, beat fellow countryman Landy in a mile race in Los Angeles, with a time of 3 min. 58.6 secs. Landy was timed at 3 min. 58.7 secs. This is the first time 4 minutes has been beaten on a U.S. track, and it is Landy's fifth sub four minute mile, three times more than any other runner.

In the world Table Tennis championships, Japan won the men and women's singles, and the men's doubles titles, as well as the Swaythling Cup in the men's team event. Rumania won the women's doubles title, and the Corbillion Cup for the women's team event. The mixed doubles title went to U.S.A.

Weightlifting: Middleweight Bogdanovsky (U.S.S.R.) set a new world mark with a total lift of 909lb. Light heavyweight Lomakin (U.S.S.R.) equalled T. Kono (U.S.A.) world record at 964½lb. Kono set a new Press mark with 317½lb.

A. Viskari (Finland) won the Boston marathon in 2 hours 14 minutes 14 seconds, to lower J. Peters (G.B.) world's best time by nearly 3½ minutes. There is no official world record for this event.

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